

*Grand-father's Letters.*  
*1836 to 1854.*

*R. H. Nassau*

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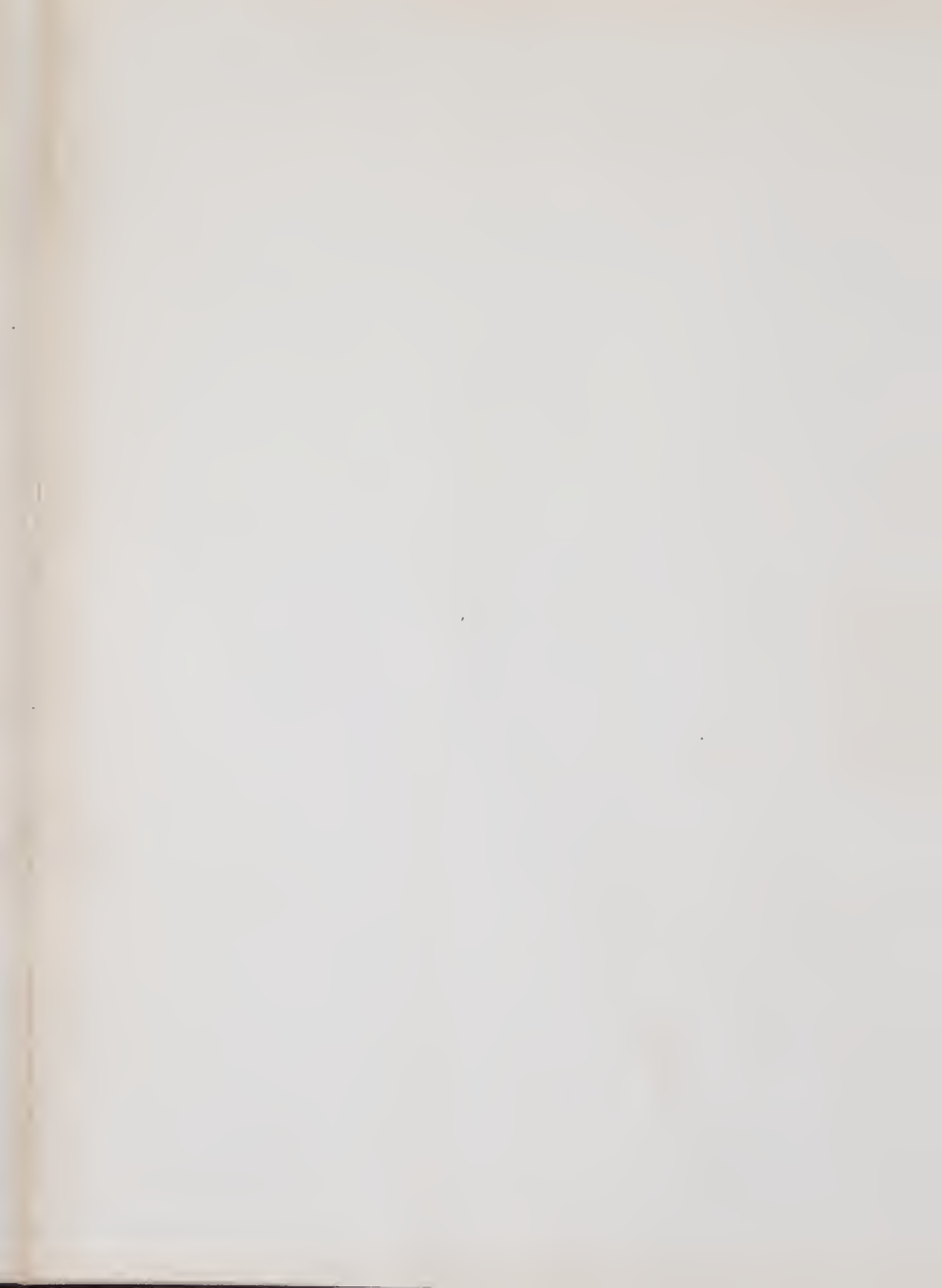


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My Grandfather's Letters,

written to

his son, my father,

Rev. Charles William Nassau. D.D.,

from 1836 to 1854.

with notes by myself,  
Robert Hamill Nassau,

Dec. 1912.

N.B. The originals are in the possession of my  
niece, Miss Isabella H. Gosman.

My typist was directed to make the copy verbatim  
et literatim. R.H.N.





*Part First.*

*1836 to 1838.*

Philada., May 17, 1836.

My dear Son:

Your letter from Pittsburgh came to hand last evening. We were very glad to hear from you and that you had arrived safe, but sorry to hear of the inconvenience and delay you experienced; yet thanks to the Lord for your safety so far. I was much disappointed indeed that your goods had not arrived before you, and from what you say of the River getting low, I think you took the best course and proceeded on your way; and I hope your goods will follow so soon that you will not experience much inconvenience from not having them with you. Since you left us we have been in our usual health. You mention that your expenses have been greater than what you had calculated on; that we might expect, as there are many things which are unforeseen and will occur in travelling. It is my purpose and desire to give you what will be necessary to make you comfortable. I know you will use all possible economy; and, as I mentioned in the Memorandum I gave you, before your money is out, draw on me for One hundred dollars, and if very needful, two hundred dollars, for your and Edward's use. And this you can repeat, as it will be easier for me to meet the drafts than if you draw for a larger sum. However, in due time I hope through the Blessing of a kind Providence, both you and Edward will be abundantly provided for. We shall look with considerable desire to hear from you after you shall have arrived at Marion. I know it will require your being on the ground some time before you can form any idea how

you will be pleased with the country and your situation. By the return of William, I suppose you will be able to give us some idea. I hope you will give me your opinion from time to time verry freely. If things turn out as we fondly hope they will, your mother thinks she must go to the West next spring. If our lives are spared.

I have not yet heard anything about the Farm Mr. Muldron<sup>w</sup> was to have purchased for me. You will attend to that, as soon as you see Dr. Ely. I know, my dear Son, you and your Brother and Family's, for a time will have to suffer some inconvenience, but then I have been looking forward a few months when through the Blessings of that Blessed God who has blessed our Family so many years in healing our sicknesses, in supplying our daily wants, in strengthening us through the trials of life, when I trust I can realize that you are in the path of duty. I feel confident and look forward to the time when you will be more extensively and fully employed for others as well as yourselves; and, as Luther used to say in his greatest troubles, he rejoiced at the consideration that his times were in the hands of that Blessed God and Saviour who knows the end from the beginning.

Tell Edward I called on Mrs. Kay this morning to inform her that I had heard from you. She had received Josephine's letter. She and the Captain are well. As far as I know of, Mrs. Drummond's family all are well. I told Mrs. Kay I was going to write to-day. She will write soon she says. Tell Edward, Miss Eliz. Drummond was here to-day; they are well. On Friday last, I forwarded, by Leech's line, Edward's Box of Medicine, directed to

Witmore & Reynolds. James forwarded to them the Bill of Lading, requesting them to forward it on to Marion. I paid the freight to Pittsburg. There is nothing new here. Give my love to Dr. Fly and Mrs. Fly and family. Tel him we have not yet fixed on any person for our Pastor, and that we have still Peace and Brotherly love in all our congregation.

Your mother with James unite with me in our love to you, Edward, Hannah and Josephine. Joseph was delighted to hear what you said of your Joseph looking over your shoulder. Kiss all the dear Children, yours and Edward's, for us; and now may the Blessed God bless you all, and have you and yours in His holy keeping is the Prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM MASSAU, Senr.

N. B. I forgot to mention we have not hear from Mary Ann nor the Dr., Since they left us; but presume they are well.

Please to remember me to Mr. Muldrow and all other friends.

W. H. Senr.

to page 3  
Note<sub>1</sub> (by R. H. N.)

My father was on his journey across Penna to  
Pittsburg, and thence, down the Ohio river.

I was a six-months old babe.

In the company were my uncle Edward Nassau, M.D.,  
and wife, who was a Miss Josephine Drummond, of  
a wealthy Phil<sup>a</sup> family; and uncle "William" Nassau jr.

"Mr. Muldrow" was the Treasurer of the Land-  
speculation Co., to which "Rev. Dr. E. S. Ely" had induced  
his church Elder (my grand-father) to subscribe.

"James", was a younger brother (my uncle.)

"Hannah", was my mother.

"Joseph", was my father's youngest brother.

"Mary Ann and the Dr.", were my father's only  
sister and her husband Dr. Handy, a physician.

Philada., June 4, 1836.

My dear Son:

Your letter, dated at St. Louis, came to hand last evening. We were all glad to hear from you, and desire to praise the Lord for all his mercies, for that kind protection He has extended to you in preserving and protecting you so far. Your letter from Pittsburgh came to hand in due time. I wrote you the next day, directed it for you at Palmyra. Through the Lord's goodness to us, we have all been in our usual health since you left us, and have often longed to see you, but we know we must wait in hope; if we are spared we shall meet again. We are looking with some anxiety to hear from you after your arrival at Marion how you will like your new home. I know it will require a short time before you will be able to form any general opinion. I hope you will freely let me <sup>k</sup>no<sup>w</sup>. I have as yet heard not<sup>h</sup>ing from Mr. Muldron<sup>w</sup> about the farm he was to purchase for me. In my last letter to you I mentioned, if he could not get it, to look out for another, and that I thout<sup>gh</sup><sub>^</sub> Dr. Fly would assist you in getting one. There is nothing new occurred here worth mentioning. Dr. McClellan will leave here the beginning of next week. I have a good deal to say after I hear how you are pleased with the country. James is going to write by Dr. McClellan. We all have you and William, Edward, Hannah, Josephine and the dear Children constantly in our affection. Kiss them all for us. Joseph often is talking about the children. Remember us affectionately to Dr. Fly

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and his wife and Son; and now may the Blessed God have you all in  
His holy keeping is the prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.



Notes to page 5.

"Marion", Marion City the site of the College, near Hannibal, Mo.

"Muldrow", the manager of the investments.  
and "Edward"

"James" and "William", brothers of my father.

"Hannah", my mother.

"Josephine", my uncle Edward's wife.

"Joseph", my father's youngest brother.

Montgomery Square, July 4, 1836.

My dear Son:

On Tuesday last we came up here. We found Mary Ann sick with the Chill and fever, and the Dr. sick in bed with a high fever. He had a bilicus attack. Both their <sup>children</sup> with the whooping cough. We have been up here but once before since they have been here. Mary Ann has had no chill nor fever since Tuesday, and the Dr. was down stairs again the next day and as well as usual, excepting a sore in the jaw, which I hope will not be serious. The rest of us your mother, Joseph and heard from Wm. and Jas. on Friday, they are all in their usual health, and I have been as well as I usually am as when you left us. It is now the Sabbath. We have endeavored to keep it as we did when you ~~were~~ here. This place does not seem to be the same that it was when you and your family were here. My heart feels sad, and so does your mother and Joseph. When I take him with me into the woods or in the fields, he constantly is telling me what your Joseph, Isabell and Mary Eliz'th and himself used to do. How many little pranks they used to paly. This place I purchased for you to live on, and I hope it was not in vain you came to Montgomery Square. I hope there are some whom the Lord has made you the instrument in awakening their minds to the consideration of eternal things and who have fled for refuge to the Lord Jesus Christ and trust will be saved with an everlasting salvation; and besides, your own health has been improved, and your life prolonged for greater usefulness.

Jacob has conducted himself very well since you left here and I think has strove to do his best, and as yet Peggy has behaved herself and done as well as we expected. We commenced mowing only yesterday, the season has been verry backward. We have the prospect of a verry large crop of hay, oats and rye, but no wheat. The fly has nearly destroyed the whcle. You know we had not as usual much wheat sown as usual. The worm cut down our corn, yet I think we shall have some for all that; and, ~~open~~ <sup>on</sup> the whole, thus far we have got along with the farm as well as I expected. We have only commenced our ingathering of the crops. I told Jacob, Thomas and others whom I have imployed to assist, I would not this season give them any ale or porter, but I would give each of them 6-1/4 cents per day extra. I trust we shall through the blessing of a kind Providence get through comfortably. I thought you would like to hear a little of how I was getting along with the farm, and I have given you the above. Contrary to my intention when I commenced writing, lest by any seeming trouble which I might have, would only add to your causes of trial. Yesterday I received your letter dated June 9th. It was truly gratefull indeed to hear from you all, and was glad you gave us such particulars. Since we heard from you at Pittsburg your goods had not arrived, I was fearfull you would have to suffer great privations and put you to many great inconveniences. I know I need not tell you that in all your afflictions, sufferings and wants we feel sensibly with you in them all. But

the Lord reigns, and in the end I trust we shall say he hath done all things well. On Monday, I wrote a letter to you and Edward on a variety of subjects, and shall look with desire to know everything that concerns you all. My mind has not changed with respect to our coming to the West, if all things turn out as we had hoped. William did not give the most flattering description of things; with the country he was well pleased, but not so much with the people; but, upon the whole liked it tolerable well. In my letter I endeavoured to give you and Edward my mind freely. If it should turn out that you could not be contented and happy, you and your family, I wanted you to know that I would give you the means of coming away again; and, on the other hand, if you and Edward are fully satisfied and intend to make Missouri your home, it is my intention to give you and Edward as much money as will purchase for yourselves one or two sections of land while it can be had at Government prices. Dr. Handy and Mary Ann do not like Montgomery Square for their residence. The Dr. is fully determined to go to the West. He talks of going this fall to look out a situation. He does not like the manners and disposition of the people in this neighbourhood; and now, my dear Son, after all, what shall I say. This life is a dream, an empty show. But the Bright World to which we go, there only in God is true happiness. In the world our dear Redeemer hath told us we shall have tribulation, but in Him we shall have peace. He was a Man of Sorrows and Grief; He was afflicted; he <sup>was</sup> despised and neglected, and laid down His life that He might be the Author of Eternal life. He thus in his humiliation suffered, but that time has long gone by,

Now He reigns the King of Glory, King of Saints, and every knee shall bow before him, and at his presence the Heaven and the Earth shall vanish away. It is sufficient that the servant should be like his Master, for if we suffer with him we shall also reign with him. No cross

My dear son, the Lord early in your life put you in of affliction in the loss of your health, but I trust

I often thou<sup>gh</sup>t and still hope He has been preparing you for greater usefulness in this world, and the

say of your brother Edward whose way has we plan one way for ourselves. But the Blessed in His own mysterious way, that way

which is allways best. I cannot hope occurrences in Marion Co. will be for the Glory of God and for the furtherance of the cause of Religion and Education. William mentioned that you and Edward did not get stoves. Let me know soon if you expect to get them in the West, as freight is low from here now, \$1.25 per 100. I can get them here and forward them on immediately and any other articles you may want and could not get by the way. I hope before this your goods have arrived. Let me know. Tel Joseph, Uncle sends his love to him and you all and that if the Lord spares our lives we hope to see you all again next spring. Mary Ann and the Dr. unite in love to you all; and now may the blessed God bless and and guide, support and comfort and bless you all with health is the prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.

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Note to page 11.

"Joseph, Isabell, and Mary Elizabeth", my eldest brother and sisters.

~~I do not know who were "Jacob" and "Peggy"~~. I suppose that they were the tenants of the Farm.

The page (4) of this Letter was torn; and the typist copied only the incomplete lines.

Note to page 8: "

"Mary Ann and the Dr."; Dr. Handy and his wife, grandfather's only daughter.

"Joseph, William and James", brothers of my father.

"Joseph, Isabell, and Mary Elizabeth," my oldest brother and sisters.

"Jacob", the farm tenant; "Peggy", his wife.



Philada., Aug. 1836.

My dear Son:

I rec'd your letter per Mr. Eustage, and wrote you and Edward on Monday. I have rec'd all the letter you mention to have written me. Your last letter was more favorable <sup>upon</sup> the whole, than we had expected. As to the country, I never doubted but it was as good a one as could be desired, and the only thing that has looked unfavorable was the College. And that is the one in which you are concerned with, and for the Interest its effects on the Religious and Education has taken you there. Yesterday I had a sort of confidential Conversation with the Rev. Mr. Patterson and Eustace, and their accounts as it respects Dr. Fly, Mr. Gallagher, the Trustees and College is everything but favorable; and what will be the end the Lord only knows. However, you are now there, and I have no doubt on my mind, if the College should fail, the Lord sparing your life, you will be intensively usefull. It is to be greatly to be regretted that Dr. Fly had anything to do with the Marion-City scheme and some others. I am fearfull he has so far prejudiced Public Opinion that he never can enjoy again that confidence which he would have had if he had confined himself to the College and some other things, and that he will not do that amount of good he might have done. And this is a most momentious consideration of, instead of Advancing the cause of the Blest Redeemer to hinder it, and to become a stumbling block in the way. May the Lord prevent in mercy. I exceedingly long, and O! how I would like to be out there with you now. Yet I know the Lord Reigns and Governs.



On Tuesday last, my Note for Four hundred dollars, at 6 months, for two lots I got in Marion-City, was presented for payment. I paid it intending if I gave up my lots to have the money refunded. I wrote you in my last that, If you had not given up my lots, not to do it until we corresponded further on the Subject. And if you should have given them Notice. I may still, if it's agreeable to the partys, agree to keep part of them. However, more of this hereafter, as I requested you or Edward to go to see the Location of my lots. If they are in the part of the city which is Building up, or if they are at a distant part, I think it's important that it should be attended to soon, as it will take some time for you to write to me and for my answer. It will be Necessary for you to take into consideration what course you will take supposing the Colledge to fail. In my last letter I gave it as my opinion <sup>u</sup>pon the whole that lands would still continue to rise. Since I wrote you, I have learned of which fact I was not aware, that money is here now exceedingly scarce, and for a certainty will not get plentier, but become harder and harder to get. The only Reason, and I think a verry good one, the immense speculations in everything. It is curtain a reaction has commenced and will go on, and there is every Reason to believe many will be ruined. As long as paper would answer it would do verry well, but now agreeable to Genl. Jackson's orders to the Secretary of Treasury, nothing but Gold or Silver can be taken for any of the Public Lands. This has and will continue to oppress the Money Market. Persons intending to Buy Lands will have to get from the Banks not there<sup>i</sup> paper

but there<sup>is</sup> Gold & Silver. This makes the Banks refuse to discount. Again, the West will try to get from the East all they can, the Banks will press the Merchants here, and<sup>in</sup> return the Merchants will have to press the<sup>is</sup> Creditors in the South and West, so that I exceedingly fear there will indeed be a reaction to the Ruin of many. When you have time will you and Edward look at the other land we have now it is located, how far from the College. In my last letter, I mentioned about the further cultivation of my land. Think on it. Have you ever thou<sup>gh</sup>t on what we had intended to have done last Spring, about Thomas Robinson coming out and Farming for you? I do not<sup>know</sup>, what his Mind is now on the subject. There are so many things crowding in my mind that what I had intended to have written I forget. I think it will be ~~very~~ desirable that Edward should get permanently fixed at as early a day as Possible. I hope you have succeeded in getting a Situation for him; when you do, you will, before you make a purchase, advise me thereof, and then we can make some arrangements to pay for it. In conversation yesterday with Mr. Patterson, he mentioned to me that Mr. Muldrow was Building some large Stone Buildings at the Upper Collidge to have a large Female Boarding School he wanted Mr. Patterson to come and take charge of it. Mr Patterson suggested to me, if the College should not go on, for you to undertake the Establishing of a Female Boarding School. He mentioned he would not come to the West, altho he is delighted with the Country. You mention some of the Probable ways you may be employed the coming winter; as it respects your teaching a common English

School. I would not be hasty in doing any such a thing. The Lord I trust will take care of you and direct, and I have no doubt there will be many ways in which you will do good. Supposing you should be disappointed at the College, would my land answer you to live on? Do you think it would be a healthy situation? of course, you would have to build yourself a house which could I suppose be soon done. If you think it would, you could farm on a large scale; but, if you think there would be any risk, as before requested look at the other land or we may get a large Improved farm. I nearly mention these things to refresh your mind on them as we talked them over you know when you were at the Square. I still hope the Seminary will go on, and you will be comfortably situated and Profitable employed. Of course, you will from time to time advise me of your prospects. When you see Edward, you may show Edward this letter. I hope he has taken his stand fairly and will not depend <sup>u</sup>pon any one to bring him to Notice, but <sup>u</sup>pon every occasion without arrogance to maintain his ground and make himself known, and I trust, in dependence <sup>u</sup>pon him who has promised to direct in all our ways, he will get into a good Profitable Practice. Sam'l Hamill Lodged with us on Monday night. He was from Norristown, on his way to Lawrenceville. His Father and Mother and himself are in their usual health. All our Relations as far as I know are well. I have given you in this the No. of my lots that when you go to the City you may easily ascertain their situation. Lots Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 B. 365; Lot No. 8 & 9 in Blo. No. 7; No. 7, 8, 9 and 10, Block 366; No. 7 & 8 Blo. No. 150.

As it respects myself, my health, <sup>u</sup>pon the whole, is much as it was when you were here. The beginning of the week, I was affected in my bowells. I hope I have nearly got over that. Your mother is in her usual health, Joseph, William & James are well. Mary Ann, her husband & children are also well; so that we have great cause to be thankfull when we look at the condition of a great part of mankind how they are afflicted in Body & Mind and how small their means are of getting the comforts and conveniences of this life, and then realize that we have allways had a sufficiency. We may truly feel thankful to the Lord for his Temporal favours, and, and then he has crowned the whole of his Mercies to Us by giving to the most of our Family a hope of a Better life, and hope he will excite the other by his Spirit to seek an Interest in his favour. Hoping you are all well. Our Love to you all. Kiss the Children for us, and the Lord Bless you all.

Your Father,

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.

Note, to page xxi [by R.N.N.]

I do not know who was "M<sup>r</sup>. Eustage", or "Eustace".

Nor do I know who was "M<sup>r</sup> Gallagher".

Nor, "Thomas Robinson".

"The Seminary" was the promised Theological Department of Marion College, to which Dr. Ely had promised that my father should be Professor of Hebrew.

"Sam'l Hamill", my mother's brother.

"Joseph, William, James, and Mary Ann", my father's brothers and sister.



Philada., August 22, 1836.

My dear Son:

By the Rev. Mr. Eustace I received your letter of the first inst. And felt thankfull to the Lord for your health and prospects. Through the Blessing of the Lord we are all and have enjoyed thus far our usual health, for which the Lord's name be praised. I wrote you on the 3rd or 4th of July. From your letter, it appears my letter had not yet come to hand. I have written to-day a letter to Edward. You can look at it and show him this, as it as well as his concerns you both. Your suggestion of acknowledging every letter received is correct. I think I did in my letter to you of July 3 or 4. But now I acknowledge to have rec'd all your letters which say you have written. I have regretted that Dr. Ely has anything to do with Marion City; however, I still hope the Lord will over-rule it for good, and for the interest of Religion and Education. I have never doubted but what Dr. Ely would do all he could for you, and still believe he will, and if it should turn out otherwise I shall be greatly disappointed. I hope your going to the West will be for the glory of God and for the good of yourself and family. The more you associate and become acquainted with the people and the more sociable you are with them, the more likely you will be to be usefull. May the Lord direct you. I have deposited Eight hundred dollars in the Girard Bank to the credit of Dr. Ely. I, immediately on receipt of the Dr.'s letter, give my thanks to Dr. for his favour. James wrote you on the subject giving you the in-

formation, and I annexed a short letter on the same. You mention you are not yet certain how you shall be engaged the coming season. I hope you will be profitably employed. As it respects teaching a Common School you can think and consult on the subject. I would not engage in anything that would likely be injurious to me. However, you are on the spot and will know best what to do. I can only say we have you and Edward especially in our prayers to the Lord for His blessing on you both. As it respects my lots in Marion City, as Edward suggested the propriety of waiting a little while. If you have not given them up you may defer it for a short time, until we correspond further on the subject. In the meantime, I think it would be well for you or Edward to go to the city and look at the location of my lots, and, if we did not give up the whole, I might a part of them. More of this hereafter. You mention the advance that lands have taken. Its no more than I expected, and my opinion is they will continue to rise, perhaps they may remain stationary in some places and fall a little in some other places, but in the whole I am inclined to believe they will advance. You mention you and Edward have been looking for a place for him. I hope you may succeed in getting a good farm. If possible, let it be tolerable large, not less than 160 acres. I am willing to give a good price for a good one and a good situation. I am sorry I did not last year secure 2 or 3 farms near the college: however, no doubt, it's all right. My advice to you is that, supposing you and Edward are now fully determined to make Missouri your home, the sooner you contract for a farm the better.



You mentioned, when in conversation with Dr. Ely for a farm for me to live on, if I should come to the West, he intimated the one you are on. How many acres are there in it, and how is it situated? Do you think it would please me? If you think it would, ask the Dr. if he will sell it, and <sup>u</sup>pon what terms. The farm Mr. Muldrok<sup>w</sup> was to have purchased for me, has the Gentleman sold it? or is it yet for sale? If it is, ask him what the lowest price is he will take for it. As it respects my land that West is improving, you mention and give your opinion about sowing it with Timothy; in my last letter to you I wrote you in the subject, I mentioned, if I was not obligated, and Mr. West insisted on it, I would not have any of it put into timothy yet. In what way will it be best and most advantageous to do with it? I suppose it will be soon time to make some arrangement for the next year. Would it answer to have some rye and wheat sown this fall?

I am still and so is your mother, as anxious to come to the West as I was when you left us. What William and James will do I cannot yet say for certain; they are tired of the tobacco-trade, and anxious to get at something else. If the Lord spares our lives and we have any measure of health, I think there is every probability of our coming out in the next spring. I was at Montgomery Square for some time in gathering in the crops. Our wheat, as it generally has been in this region, has nearly turned out an entire failure. You know how much ground we had in wheat. I have had it thrashed and got 6-1/2 bushels off the whole. The rye is rather

better yet a verry poor crop. Our hay crop was tolerably good, but not as good as last year. The oat crop generally has been the heaviest one I have ever known. The corn is backward, but yet promises to be a good one, if the frost keeps off and I have sown the corner lot adjoining Wager's with buck-wheat. There is a great deal of buck-wheat sown in all directions, and from present appearances, if the frosts keep off, there will be a verry large crop. The potatoe crop promises to be a good one. From all that I have been enabled to gather, the crops of wheat and rye this side the Mountains is a poor one, and I have no doubt wheat and rye flour will be high here next year. I spent rather a solitary time at the Square, it does not seem to me as it used to be. Many of the neighbors there have enquired after you. There has nothing new occurred excepting that Mr. Van Horn and Mrs. Snyder have got married. I am sorry to inform you the Rev. Mr. Koontz<sup>died</sup> a few days ago, after an illness of about 10 days. Old Dr. Handy and his wife stopped at our house on their way to Mr. Koontz's residence; they returned last Thursday with 2 of the smallest children. Mrs. Koontz will be on, in a short time. Thus we continually see how uncertain is our life and how certain is death. Philada. does not seem to me what it was a few years ago. The contentions in our churches and the disputes amongst Christians I think have had a verry bad effect on the community at large. Iniquity abounds, Professors are cold. I am sorry to say our congregation never was as badly attended as it is now. We are still without a Pastor, and no prospect of getting one soon. Our congregation lately made out a call for a Mr. Blagdon of Boston, which he has declined accepting, but has accepted one from a congregation in Boston.

I feel my mind quite loose from Philada , and long to get away from it. Yet I shall look to the Lord for direction and waite on Him at a Throne of Grace. New School and Old School has dried up the Fountains of Christian Communion one with another. I pray you in the West may not get the spirit of us here in the East, but that you will be satisfied to know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and strive to glorify Him by leting your light shine before men. When you get in your new house, we will send you more of your goods. Have you and Edward got stoves for the winter, if not, do you expect them? I wrote you before on this subject. Let me know. The pear tree back by the barn from which we so many has not got one on. Any articles you may want that cannot be easily got with you let me know. In my letter to you of July 3, I said I would strive to give you and Edward as much money as would buy you one or two sections of land for your own use; and now, my dear son, your mother, myself, Joseph and all the rest long to see. Tel Joseph and the other children how glad we would be to see them, and kiss them all.

Mary Ann and the Dr. have just come to the city, for the first time since they have been at the Square, and unite in sending their love with your mother, Joseph, Wm. & James, to you, Hannah and all the children. May the blessed God bless you and preserve and protect you all is the Prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes: [by R. N. N.]

I do not know who was the "Mr. West" (page 21).

"Tobacco-trade", my uncles William and James were carrying on their father's tobacco store on Market St.

"Wager's" (page 22), in Montgomery Square.

Do not remember the names, "Van Horn" "Mrs Snyder", or "Rev. Mr. Koontz", nor "Mr. Blagdon".

The "disputes among Christians" were the beginnings of the theological arguments, which, in 1837, made the Old and New School division of the Presb. Church.

Philada., Sept. 28, 1836.

My dear Son:

Your letters, per Mr. Ashburner, and on Friday last, your letter by the hands of Mrs. Thaw came to hand. We felt thankful to the Lord for His mercy to you and your family in their health being continued to them you and Edward's family. May He still hold you all by His kind care over you. I wrote you a long letter a few days after I received your letter per Rev. Mr. Eustace. From him and the Rev Mr. Patterson, I rec'd about the same information that you gave me in your last letters. I am disgusted with the conduct of Dr. Ely, and, against my will, I begin to fear he has deceived me; and things begin to look like as if Dr. Ely and the others who are engaged with him in speculation have nearly held up their interestedness to build up Marion College and to get a great many emigrants out, in order to make large fortunes. Mr. Patterson told me he did not think the College would come to much for some years to come. However, it will be best for us to be quiet and wait for a time. You need not be, nor shall you be, dependent on Dr. Ely; and at the same time you say he said you should have \$1,000 for the first year, I consider you as in the service of the College when you left here. At his particular request, you went out to take charge of a Greek Class until the College went into operations. Their not having such a class is not your fault; and my advice to you is to make no conscience about it, and get as much of the 100 Dollars from Dr. Ely as you can; at present I would say nothing more about them, but, you may rest assured that what you told me about Marion City, their grasping to get all



lands joining the College, their neglecting the College Buildings, is no secret here; it's in many mouths, and their unchristian conduct in speculation is held up to public view in some of the religious papers; the New York Evangelist speaks verry plain about it; but, as I said before, it will be best for us to wait and be still. If Dr. Ely comes out clear I shall rejoice. You mention you told Dr. Ely I gave up my lots in Marion. In my last to you I requested you, if you had not given them up not to do so, but go and look at their location, and we would correspond further on the subject. Now my mind is fully made; I would not keep them for any consideration. If you have not already done it, give them a written notice from me, and, if it's necessary to have the certificates, I will send them on immediately. I like your idea about Edward, your being close together; and altho Dr. Ely has acted toward him in still calling him "Mr. Nassau", whilest his own son is "Dr. Ely" is too mean and little; however I hope you have succeeded in getting the house you mention, and if not that some other. On this and other subjects, I will write you again when I hear from you.

I have been buisy yesterday and to-day in packing up a stove for you and one for Edward; the largest stove is for you and the other for Edward. They are miserable made, the plates are so very thin. If I had known it earlier, I would have indeavored to have got second hand old stoves, for their plates are thicker and of course stronger. If I can possibly meet with two old stoves in time to send them I will. In the meantime, I hope you will get

them safe, as we took great pains in packing them. When you get them, be careful in putting them up. The plates are all with some of the pipe and legs of one stove in the tierce. The bottom plates of the 2 stoves are in the box No. 3. Your stove, with I think all the pipe, is marked 1. Your kitchen shovel and tongs, a gun for you, it's James old one, it has no light on he gave it to Edward some time ago, but as he has two guns James sends this to you. I would have had it repaired, but did not think of sending it until we were packing the box. It will answer your purpose occasionally to shoot a rabbitt or some other game. 3 vol Colla. Bible, the Minutes of the Assembly and 2nd vol. of for you, a bed, hand irons knives and forks shovel and tongs, little Mary's crib, top of Edward's secretary 2 comfortable bed bolster, box of segars and some other articles for Edward. I intend to have your little carriage at the Square repaired, and if you continue in the West next spring, to send it to you. If our lives are spared, it's my and your Mother's intention to come out to you in the spring. No. 2 contains Edward's bureau. We expect to forward the goods to-morrow. A friend of ours, Mr. Bomersler, is going in the morning to St. Louis, Mo. I have in great haste written this. In Edward's last letter to me he mentioned that he has lost his horse and that his cow was sick, since which we have not heard any more. I would like to know if he got his horse again or not, and if his cow died. The gentleman is waiting, and I must close. Through the blessing of the Lord my health is tolerable, rather better than when I last wrote you. Your Mother is in her usual health. William and James are well. Joseph is well

and was delighted ver~~y~~y much with the letters from Joseph. I will write you soon. May the Lord bless you all, and love to you and yours, and to Edward and his wife. I will write to him to-morrow or next day. Kiss the children us. The Lord bless and direct you is the Prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.



Notes (by R. H. N.)

do not know who was "Mr Ashburner": nor "Mrs Shaw".  
do not know the "Mr Bomester" (page 27).

"William" James and "Edward"; my father's brothers.

Philada. October 10, 1836.

My dear Son.

Your favour of the 12th of Sept'r came to hand. We were very glad to hear from, and felt thankful to the Lord for his Mercy to you and your Family, In blessing you, Hannah and the Children with such continued health. I hope your health has been continued to you all. You speak of the winter being verry chilly and wet with you. The past season has been as cold a one as ever I experienced, there has been frost I believe in every month through the summer, and, at the close of last month, there was ice as thick as a dollar, which has settled vedgitation. On the 5th Inst. there was a considerable fall of snow up at Pottsville, and the region round in many places. They say in some places the snow is 10 inches deep. Every thing here is verry high. You no doubt have heard that, all along the Seaboard, the crops of wheat and rye have been light, and in many places they will not get their seed. You mention that Dr. Fly has called to seeyou, and has again told you that you shall have one thousand dollars for your salary the first year, and that he fixes your time to commence from the time you came to Marion; that is my Idea which I expressed to you in a Letter I wrote to you 2 weeks ago, per Mr. Bomester, who was on his way to St. Louis. My hope is in him who directeth all things, and my Prayer for you all is that you may be guided and directed by him in all your ways. The present untoward appearances with you he can overrule, and I hope he will so that the prospects of Marion College may yet brighten, and it may yet do much good. However, as you say your future connexion with it is yet a

problem, with which I do not agree with you. If your connexion with it should cease, you know my mind; my determination is to help you, and put you in a situation some way or other, in which you can comfortable support and bring up and Educate your Children. I have no dispondent feelings on this subject, no more than the unpleasant feelings which arise from your being disappointed in what we thought reasonable expectations. It has been a considerable support to your Mother and myself that you and Edward appeared to be contented with your situation, and another cause of thankfulness by us is that from the Persons who have arrived here from Marion they all speak well of you, and that there is no doubt you will be verry useful and obtain considerable influence. Your not being nor having anything to do with the speculations going on will greatly add to your usefullness, and I sincerely hope and believe, if Edward can get any <sup>4</sup> were near you, you will be able to assist him much. I mentioned before, I am much in favour of Edward being near you, and am willing to pay tolerably high of a good place that will suit Edward. Whatever you and him agree to do, I shall be satisfied with. we long verry much to see you and the children, tel Joseph that his Uncle Joseph is daily talking about them. This morning, a little after daylight, I took with down to the wharf to buy wood; going along, he was taling about them and a how pleased he would be to be with them to run over the Prairie. the Lord only knows if we shall be pre-mitted again to meet in this world. If our lives are spared, our feelings become stronger every day to go the the West to you next spring. The Lord's Mercies to me have been many and great, my life he has

prolonged many years more than I, 30 years ago, ever expected to live, and with all my Infirmities that I have experienced in my body, he has kept me from often suffering from great Paine or verry great sickness, and this may be said of your mother. When we look into our Family thus far through the year, a great measure of health has been given. No brakes have been made in our midst thus far through the year, our wants have all been Supplied, for which Praised be his Holy Name, and, as you observed, the Lord Reigns in the West as well as in the East. Yes God reigns over all. How comfortable the thought all Power in Heaven and on Earth is given to the Lord Jesus Christ. And he is our compassioned High Priest and ever lived to make Intercession for us, having Loved us to the Laying down his own life for us. May we not then willingly trust him for all that we need for time and Eternity, when he has said I will never Leave thee nor forsake thee. There is nothing new here. To-morrow, is our day of the General Election for this State, both Parties are verry active, and in few days more it will be known which party has succeeded. we shall Indeavour to forward you some papers with the news. I have been interrupted by Two Friends calling to see me, one of them the Rev. Mr. Frazier who has been for some years a Missionary of our Board in Illinois. He is on a visit to the East, to collect funds to rear up a College, at a Town called McDonough above you in Illinois. from what I could gather from him, the People in the West consider Drs. Blackbourne, Fly and others buying such a vast amount of land in the West for speculation everything else then a blessing to them, as their holding the lands prevents actual

as they are not willing to give the advance which their lands, and go ahead and get Government lands. I think, as I have said before, from the scarcity of money, and its continuing to get scarcer, our over grasping speculators will mis it. I still think there<sup>is</sup> will be a great blow up before long, and yet I have no doubt lands improved will gradually rise and be worth 6, 8, 10 and 12 Dollars, which I think will be as high as they probable will go to maintain that price 15, 20 and 30 dollars is certainly more than they are worth, and yet I wish you to distinctly understand, It first being settled you and Edward are determined to make Missouri your home, In order to have Edward Located near you, in a situation that will answer his Profession, I am verry willing to give a good Price for an Improved farm or unimproved lands that will answer. It appears to me, <sup>u</sup>pon the whole, after much thinking as you well know, when you do make a Purchase, it ought to be one of considerable size, and as you said Edward could not attend to the Farming, I hope he may get into a good Practice, and as your Connections with the College and deriving support from it is certain, It would be well to keep in mind Edward could live on one part of it and you could have the Farm for your own use. Let me have your ideas on the subject and what course you Probable may take, and continue to give me all the Information you can on the subject. I have, as I before informed you, sent you two stoves, one for you and one for Edward. They started from here last Saturday week, next week I intend to send you two more. Dr. Handy has gone to Dover. We are going up to the Farm to-morrow and

shall stay until the begining of next week. When I return, I shall forward the stoves. Mr., Jas., Joseph, and your mother and all unite in Love and affection for you. Kiss the dear children for us. May the Lord bless you all is the Prayer of your Father,

William Nassau, Sen'r.

## Notes. (by R. N. N.)

Do not know the names "Rev W. Frazier", and "Dr. Blackbourne".

"Dover", Delaware (page 33):

"Dr. Handy", the husband of grandfather's only daughter, Mary Ann.

"Hannah", my mother.

"William, James, Joseph", my father's brothers.



Philada. Nov.

1836.

My dear Son

Your several Letters, pr. Mr. Ashburner, Mr. Thaw, Dr. McClellan and Capt. Robinson came to hand. I wrote you, pr. Mr. Bomisler, informing you that I had sent you two stoves and other articles, and I wrote you and Edward my last letter was dated I think on the 11 of October, and I informed you again in it of the stoves and mentioned that I intend to forward you 2 more stoves in a short time. As soon as they come to hand inform me, as I feel verry anxious about them. They were new stoves, and the plates are all so thin and the Iron brittle, I hope they have come safe. On Tuesday last, I forwarded again 2 Boxes and 1 Keg. There is in the Boxes 2 stoves, they are both old. I intend the largest one for you, the smaller for Edward. I put in the Boxes as much pipe as I could get in, you must accommodate between you. In one of the Boxes, I have put the little carriage you had at the Square, thinking it would be verry desirable to the children. there is also a box containing some raison & candy. what is for Edward has his name written on, the rest are for you. the Keg contains 2 pots of apple-butter, which your mother had made up at the Square, the first we ever made, and she was determined and accordingly I have sent them and hope they will arrive safe. One is for you, the other for Edward. I have also sent a Bag containing some Buckwheat Meal, the first we have raised, we had about 12 Bushell. When rec'd, give Edward about one third of it, and keep the rest yourself. there is a small linnen



Bag with some cherry. Joseph dried them in the Summer, in order to send them to the children. They are in the Box with the Raisons. The bolts And Keys of the carriage are in a Bag, and I hope you will receive them in good time and in good order. I am sorry you had so much trouble in order to get at the different Portions of land Dr. Fly has purchased for us, but as it is necessary that we should know something about, I am glad you have been enabled to find and see them. I sometimes feel quite vexed at Dr. Fly, when I consider that it was from his Proposal and the long acquaintance and his frequent expressed Friendship, and the Glowing Colours with which he represented the Prospects of Marion College, that you and your Family are now there as well as Edward's, and that I have invested so much money in lands; and again, when I consider that I, with a very few others, were the first that he took up lands for, and when he knew from the beginning my intention and the Probability of our whole family Emigrating to the West, and as he frequently expressed his desire that he would like to have me near him, and then that the first purchase for me should be so far off, and in all the other tracts none of them are near the College, when I look at this I feel Mortified and Troubled; and again, when I would endeavour to cover over the whole with the Mantle of Charity and forget it, his avaricious grasping with a few others to get all the lands around the College and vicinity comes staring me in the face, and then my feelings rise with indignation; but, as I have common fare with others, I in some measure get my feelings calmed. The late Transaction of the Dr., in Buying the land which he told you of, and then when he knew

your where in for, it is mean and contemptable in the extreme.

Some other things of him, his not calling to see, for one 12 hour, until you had been in the country four Months, is unexcusable, and again his treatment of your Brother Edward. He has written to your Brother James and sais the Dr. on every occasion Introduced him as "Mr. Nassau", whilst his one Son is "Dr. Fly" an eminently great and Promising young Physician. I feel contempt for him, and dispise such conduct. Your Brothers Wm. & James are determined to let him know of it and to report it; but I suppose he thinks he has layed me and mine under such obligations to him in his getting you an appointment and Buying so much land for us, and now he has put a Plaster over the whole by your getting One thousand dollars for the first year. This is to cover all and stop our mouths. I shall let him know something else. You mention you will not have anything to do in the College this winter. You have my mind fully on this subject. I am verry glad to hear that there is every reason to believe Edward will be so near you, as I have told you before, I now repeat it, I am determined you shall not be dependent, and as soon as you make up your mind to <sup>s</sup>discontinue your connections with the College, let me know. I still pray and hope the Lord will in some way over-rule or other we do not now see, the Imprudences in speculation by those <sup>th</sup> who were to Build up Marion College. I am sorry to tel you we have at length come to this point in our Congregation, its peace and harmony is broken by the Introduction of Mr. Brainard who was the Editor of the Cincinatti Journal. I have opposed him, on

the ground that I did not think, from his former course, he could keep us united. The majority of Session and the Congregation have thought<sup>th</sup> otherwise. We had a Congregational meeting last Monday week, and, against all entreaty, have Elected him by 61 to 29; of course I am in the Minority. Dr. Duffield is with me in the Session, the other 3 new Elders are for him. I have taken my stand. We are determined not to yield but maintain our rights. I suppose, if things are pushed by the Minority and sustained by Presbytery, I shall leave the church with a number of others. We are to have a meeting to-morrow evening to see if we can come to any agreement that will harmonize us. I shall rejoice if it can be done. I will write you again on this subject. Your mother was taken verry ill in Dr. McDowell's church last Sabbath week. She has had a severe illness, of Inflammation of the head, her pain was verry great indeed. Through the Lord's gracious kindness, she has been getting better since last Friday, but mends slowly. Dr. Duffield thinks she will be in her usual health in a short time, and I have every reason to think with him that it will be so. I commenced writing this letter last week, but thought<sup>th</sup> I would not conclude it, until there was a favorable turn in your mother's Illness. Your suggestion in your last that, when you thought<sup>th</sup> of Dying and leaving your Wife and children in a strange land amongst strangers, affected her very much, and now, at her and your Brothers William and James request, you may rest assured that, if the Lord in his Wisdom should think proper to call you from this stage of action, we are all determined to bring them away amongst their<sup>re</sup> Friends. however, it's only known to him who does all things according

to his pleasure. Yet, notwithstanding the many untoward events which unexpectedly have occurred, yet I hope the Lord has some work for you to do in the West, amongst all the discouragements from the West one general report from all is that you are rising in Public opinion, and as a Gospel Minister, and will command considerable Influence from the Position in which you stand. God has many ways in accomplishing his purposes, he reigns and I have no doubt will do all things well. To him we give thanks for his watchfull care over you in giving and continueing health to you and Hannah and the children, and to Edward and his wife and child. The Lord Bless you all. Tell your Joseph, Uncle is looking forward to next spring with delight, when through the Blessing of the Lord, if nothing unforeseen occurs, we hope to see you. As it respects our farm at the Square, I have concluded to keep it till next year, and not to dispose of it. I have had several persons who wanted it, but have determined not to sell it yet. Produce is very high here, flour say \$10.50 per Bbl. Fresh pork by the hog 10 and 11 cts. I think you will do well to lay in a good stock of pork for next year. Mary Ann came to the city last evening. I did not let her know of her Mother's Illness until Saturday morning after she began to get better. There is much I want to say to you, particularly on the subject of your connexion with the College, which I shall defer, and kiss all the dear children for Mother, Uncle and myself. May that Blessed God who has thus far Blessed us continue his Blessing to you all is the Prayer of your Father. Mary Ann, the Dr., Wm., and Uncle unite in our Love to you, Hannah, and Edward and his wife.

## Notes. (by R. H. N.)

I suppose that that "Dr. McLeellan" was of the present McLeellan family of Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 38, I suppose the "Mr. Brainard" is the Rev. Dr. Brainard, who became pastor of "Old Pine St" church, in which my grandfather was, at that time, an Elder. Apparently, Elders Nassau & "Duffield" were against Dr. Brainard. Grandfather subsequently did leave that church, and united with the 2<sup>d</sup> ch. And, Dr. Brainard and the 3<sup>d</sup> ch, went New School. (page 40). the "child" of my uncle Edward, was my beautiful cousin Mary Nassau.



Philada. Nov. 21, 1836

My dear Son.

Your last letter was by Capt. Robinson. I wrote you about 2 weeks ago Informing you that I had sent 2 Boxes and 1 keg. I then told you your Mother had been ill, through the Lord's Mercy she has been Improving daily. We are here all in Tolerable health. Bad colds are verry prevalent. We still have abundant cause for thankfull to the Giver of all good for his many Mercies. I have writtent to Edward to-day, and shall write a few lines to you, as we have an opportunity by Mr. Colhoun, who expects to leave here for your County to-morrow. Dr. Ely has not yet made his appearance here. You will of course as you have been doing, give me all the Information you can of what will be the Prospects of Marion College. The general opinion here is still unfavourable to it. Some think Dr. Ely ought to leave it. In your last, you mention of there going to make some important changes in it. if, in the course of the winter, you should determine to leave it and continue in the West, you will advise me and what course you will take. Mr. Colhoun perhaps can assist you if you think it best to get a farm, he may assist you in getting one. I find he has no confidence in Dr. Ely. You have my mind often told you that if you and Edward in the spring are still determined to make Missouri your home, I am determined to do all i can to assist you. have you seen or heard any thing about my land which West is improving. I have no doubt you will do all that lays in your power either to rent it or have it worked on shares. You have no doubt taken advice on the subject. Joseph wishes me to tel the other children that he thinks of them every day. We still think

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of coming to the West in the spring, if nothing unforeseen occurs, however, if we are spared, we shall often <sup>a</sup>h~~e~~r~~s~~ from you, and you from us before that time. Your mother, myself and all the rest unite in Love and affection to you, Hannah and the children. Kiss them all for us. May the Lord Bless you all and Guide and Direct you is the Prayer of your Father.

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.



## Notes

do not know of "Mr Colhoun," or "Capt Robinson."

Philada. Decem'r 12, 1836.

My dear Son

Your letter, dated October 24, per Dr. Fly, came to hand 8 or 9 days ago, but in it you say you will write again in a few days. I have delayed writing until this evening, as we intend to go to the Country I thought I would write you. All the Letters you speak of having written me came to hand. You say my last letter Dec'd by you was dated Aug. I wrote you by Mr. Bomescher, dated the Latter end of Sept'r, informing you of my having sent you 2 stoves, and again I wrote you dated October 11 -, and again the beginning of Nov'r, Informing you of my having sent 2 more stoves and sundry other articles, and I wrote again to you by Mr. Colhoun who left here about 20 days ago. In the midst of our anxiety for you and Edward and your familys we felt cheered that the Lord had Blessed you and yours with so much, whilst so many others had been sick. From what you say about your prospects in your connexion with the College, is not what it ought to be. But it's no more then I have expected. When I hear from you, you shall hear from me again, in the mean time, this subject must be one on which we must frequently correspond on through the winter. I have no idea that you shall be dependent on any one for so small a salary. Many things have occurred which we never thought, and many more may occur. Dr. Fly may cease his connexion with the College, and may finally leave Missouri and return to Philada. I do not know that he has any intention of this, but these things and many more may occur. Its thought here by many that the Lower College, at least for some years, will not be much, if as you say the Dr.

brings the College in debt to him. One thing I think is verry certain, no money could now be collected for it here. Public confidence in it is gone, and it will take time and a great change in its management before confidence in it can be restored. I pray the Lord will direct you on this subject. There is scarce an hour passes every day but that I feel and would rejoice to be with you and Edward that I might assist you with my advice, but the Lord Peigns and I hope and believe he will direct you and will make you usefull. I have often told you when here and in all my Letters, If it should aprear to you that it is not your duty to remain connected with the College, and you should leave it, I suppose the best thing you could do would be to go to farming. It's still my intention to purchase for you a large farm and which should finally be your own, from which you could doubtless make a good living, and you could be as usefull in this situation as in any other. I think this course would be preferable to keeping a school, taking it for granted you are still perfectly satisfied with the country. In yo r letter you mention 2 farms of Dr. Fly, one of 320 the other 160. The one of 320 would be a good farm for you. You say you will give me more information about them and any others you know of. Write me more frequently on the subject and I will always be punctual in answering them. Dr. Fly got home on last Thursday week. He was brought home from Baltimore verry sick. You have, I suppose, heard of the disaster they met with on board the Steam Boat. He has had the Pleurisy and other inflammation in his side. I have been several times to his house, but have not seen him yet, as they do not suffer

any persons but their own connexions to see him, of course as I am going out of the city in the morning, I shall not see him until next week. I apprehend that Dr. Fly will have his hands full with many who are dissatisfied, particularly about Marion City lots.

Many intended to give up their lots but waited, as they expected he or some other person would be here to attend to it, as they gave time to the 1 of December for persons to give up there lots, and the time having gone by before he arrived here and there being sickness. not yet being able to attend to business, I apprehend some serious difficulty to many. However, I do not <sup>know</sup> what their intention is. They have got many of the notes which were given at 12 months for City lots discounted, and amongst the rest I think my note for 12 months has been discounted, endorsed by Dr. Fly, which he shall have the pleasure to take up. I have your letters, first, of your having informed him of my desire to give up my lots and to know whether it would be necessary for me to send the Certificates, and his reply to you; and, the next, of your having given him (I suppose written) notice he required. I had mentioned to you in one of my letters I wanted you to look at the location of my lots as perhaps I might keep some of them, but, in my letter per Mr. Bomesler, I stated that I had fully made up my mind to have nothing to do with them. However, I do not anticipate that I shall have any difficulty with him about them. I have had a good many inquiries to know if I intended to sell the farm at the Square. I have not yet fully made up my mind on the subject. Good farms sell very readily. Lands of this character bring good prices, and are looking up. I think if things continue as

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they are until Spring, and I should conclude to sell, I intend to ask a good price, start it at 12,000 Dollars. Mr. Thompson has sold his farm for 14,500 Dollars. Good farms in any direction, South, West or North, sell from 80 to 100 Dollars pr. acre. Dr. Handy came to the City this evening. He left Mary and the children in their usual health. I long exceedingly, and so does your Mother and Joseph, and indeed all of us, to see you. We are fully determined, if our lives are spared, to come and see you. Our desire to emigrate to the West is as strong as ever. We intend, if we are permitted to visit you in the Spring, for your Brother James to accompany us. I am very glad you have got Edward so near you. Your Mother is restored to her usual health. I hope you have got the little carriage and the children are enjoying themselves with. Through the Mercy of the Lord we are all in our usual health and all heartily unite in Love and affection for you and Hannah, and kiss all the dear children for us. Tell Joseph, Uncle hopes to see him and the other children in the Spring. Give our Love to Edward and Josephine. Your next letter I will answer immediately. May the Lord Bless and direct you all is the prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

## Notes.

(page 46). I do not know what was the "disaster" which Rev. Dr. Ely met with. The "steam-boat" would be on either the Missouri or Ohio rivers.

(Page 48). I do not know the "Mr. Thompson"; I suppose that he lived near Montgomery Square, do not know of "Mr. Bornescher," or "Bornesler".



Phil da. March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1837.

My dear Son

Your letter of Jan'y. 31<sup>st</sup> came to hand on Monday in answer to mine of Dec'r 12. It rejoiced our hearts to hear from you and that you and Hannah and your family and Edward and his were all well. Through the Lord's goodness to us we are all in our usual health. I wrote you on the 3rd of January which I hope you have rec'd long before this. Your letter to James per Mr. Hanley was by himself delivered and the draft of 150 dollars drawn by Edward, which was paid him. You mention the high price of every article of food and wages. It has been and still is unusually high here the Average price of Pork by the whole hog through the season was about 5.50 pr. 100 & our Marketts are now exceedingly high. Beef from 12 to 16 Cts., Veal 10 to 12 cents by the 1/4, young pork 10 to 12 and all other articles in proportion, flour is now by the Bbl. 11 Dollars, has been at 12.50, corn from 1 Doll. to 1.10 per bush. Altho we have had not quite as cold weather as I have known, yet it has been a long cold winter. I went up to the Farm on the 11 Oct. It was a cold day, next morning we had about 2 inches snow on the ground and to-day it is cold 2 or 3 inches of snow fell last night. Our Navigation is now opened it was closed from 3<sup>rd</sup> January until last Friday. I am truly glad to hear that the difference that have existed amongst some with you have been settled and I am glad to hear of the seriousness that has manifested itself and of Josephine and Edward having connected themselves with the church and sincerely hope and pray they may be enabled to walk so as to adorn their Pro-



profession. We are glad to hear of Edward's Prospects in his Profession of doing well. I have had several conversations lately with Dr. Fly, his health is getting better, he will leave here as soon as he can make his arrangements, he intends to make the West his home. In the conversations I have had with him I did not ever mention anything about his treatment to you or Edward as I did not think it would be of any use therefore said nothing about. I think in my letter to you of January 3, I advised you to hold to the College at least for this year. Dr. Fly told me again yesterday his sole object in going to the West is to do all he can to Build up the Seminary. He says you shall fair as well as himself. He wants <sup>us</sup> we to advance the whole or part of the 1,000 Dollars I subscribed, he says the whole of it shall be laid out as far as it is Necessary to make the fence around the Land allotted you. I think I shall pay about half before he leaves us. It has often been a cause of sorrow to me that things did not go on as we expected. I think it will do better now and I do hope it will succeed and I think the difficultys in the West, the Dr. Illness will all turn out to its advancement I consider those things that have occurred as Purifiers sent by the Great Head of the Church. It is not pleasant to be sore to the flesh to be tried, yet ist good. I sincerely hope before long you will be occupied in the work for which you went to the West. I know your motives and I never doubted but what there will be work for you in the Seminary. If the Seminary went on and if not you could be otherwise ingaged. My hopes begin to Brighten. Now the difficultys of some Persons in Money Matters will do more to wean us from the Love

of it then anything else. The Lord has his own way of working as the connexion with the Collage was the main object of your going to to the West I think I can see the Providence of the Almighty working in this matter. I could say a great deal to you on this subject were I with you. I hope the Lord will keep you and direct you. As it respects your support for the next year I hope you will be provided for and in due time realize all that was Promised. If the Institution cannot do it you know I will. I have not yet sold the farm nor is it certain that I shall. I have determined to sell it even if we should not finally determine to emigrate to the West. Its still our determination if nothing unforeseen occurs to come and see you. We calculate of leaving here about the first week in May. Dr. Handy I expect will come along with us. towards the close of January I rec'd a letter from Edward dated Jany 1. I wrote him an answer immediately, which I hope he has rec'd. In Edward's letter he mentioned he often wished Dr. Handy was there that they might Practice together. I mentioned to Edward that it struck me favourably. however my mind is not made up on the subject it will be time enough when through the Blessing of a Kind Providence we are carried out to you in safety. However this one thing I mention its the intention of Dr. Handy to continue in the West and not to return with us, but to look for a situation for himself. You and Edward in the meantime can talk on the subject of their Practicing together, or look around for some place that might suit him. Mary Ann will stay in the City with William until our return. I am sorry the last goods we sent you did not arrive, they certainly left here time enough to have reached you before the cold weather set in. I shall attend to it and

in the meantime if they arrive advise me of it. Here let me mention  
lest I forget it Mrs. Shaw the mother of Mr. Shaw has several  
times called on us to know if you said anything about him in your  
Letters to us. She is quite uneasy about him and his Family having  
Received no letter from him. When you write again if you hear of  
him just mention it. Tell Mr. Dunham I will attend to their request  
and forward the Certificates by Dr. Fly. Have you heard anything  
from Mr. West? has he completed his contract, has he got the land  
inclosed? In one of my last Letters to you I requested you to  
dispose of it either to rent or have it worked on the shares, any way  
you thought best. Has anything been done in it? Last week I got my  
notes 2 of them from Dr. E. the other was due the week before.  
they got 25,000 of notes given for Marion City lots disc't in the  
Mechanics' Bank here, 1 of mine was amongst the number, it still re-  
mains there. I gave up to the Dr. my deeds as they call them for  
the Lots, the 400 dollars I paid last summer they have not yet paid  
me. I told the Dr. I would wait until it was convenient for them  
to pay it. I hold a deed for the 2 Lots on the Mississippi the  
money is paid my other note I shall receive before  
he leaves here. I understand they have had a considerable amount  
of them discounted here at New York and many other places but few of  
them are paid in Bank. I now consider myself clear of Marion City.  
They appear as sanguine as ever of its succeeding. I wish it may.  
In my letter to you of Jan'y 3, I mentioned that Dr. Fly had declined  
selling the farm he lived on last summer but

(Part of Letter missing.)

of farming it seems to me desirable. Give me your opinion freely.  
he offered it to me for 10.50 pr. acre the same terms he told you.  
And now, my dear Son, I agree with you, we plan our way, God works  
his own way and we see our plans wont do. I have allways <sup>felt</sup> a strong  
desire to be near all our children, for a long time in the Providence  
of God our desires were gratified, we had you all near us, but since  
you and Edward left us I have often felt sad I know thats not  
right. When I go to Montgomery Square it looks gloomy, you and the  
children are not there. I feel sad I don't like to go there any more  
as I formerly did when you were there, and daily Joseph will be  
sitting in great thoughtfulness and ask him, Joseph, what's the  
matter the tears

(Part of letter missing.)

P. S. Give me your opinion of my paying now the 1,000 Dollars  
or part of it. will he have it in his power to appropriate it in  
that way. I have intended to mention your getting your sugar from  
Louisville or St. Louis. Sugar will be low this coming season, they  
bring it up the river from New Orleans. Again your Mother and all  
near unite in love to you, Hannah and all the dear children,

Your Father,

W. MASSAU, Sen'r.

P. S. Your Mother wants you to ask Hannah what things of hers  
that are at the Square she would like to have sent to her this spring.  
There are a number of Pots and kettles or any other article she may  
want. Let me know, your mother will get them for her.

Notes to Letter of March 11, 1837.

R. H. A.

page 50. "Hannah", my mother.

" " "Edward", father's brother, Edward Nassau, M.D.

" " "James", father's younger brother.

" " "I do not know, Mr. Hanley.

" " "the Farm", at Montgomery Square.

" " "Josephine", my uncle Edward's wife.

page 52. "Dr. Handy", husband of grandfather's only daughter,  
Mary Ann.

" " "William", my father's brother.

" 53 "Mr and Mrs Shaw": I do not know them.

" " "Mr. Dunham": do not know him.

" " "Mr. West": do not know him.

" 54 "Joseph": father's youngest brother.



Philada., March 22, 1837.

My dear Son

Your letter dated Feb'y 21 and Edward's of the 20 came to hand on Friday last. All the letters you mention to have written have come to hand. We felt thankfull to the Lord for having watched over you and extended to you and Hannah, Edward & Josephine and all the children his kind care. We felt sorry to hear of Hannah's affliction but hope she is entirely free from its pain and has her usual health. Through the Lord's Blessing we are all in our usual health. You mention you intend to continue your connexion with the College another year that I think is right. From the description you have given of the Farm you are on I have no disposition to purchase it at present. We are truly glad to hear of Edward's Prospects that they are so incourageing. I have not yet succeeded in selling our Farm and I think its verry doubtfull that I shall before May which is the Time we had fixed upon for our intended vissit to you. There is a great pressure in Money matters. Many of our own large Merchants are paying from 1/2 to 2 & 3 pr. cent for Money. In my former Letters I mentioned that I expected James would accompany us, but I think now it will not be prudent for him to leave home as there will be there own Business, all mine to attend to and my Treasuryship of the Board of Missions, which all would be more than William could probable Manage. He intends to vissit you but its deferred until we return, which we hope we shall do through the Blessing of Gcd. Your Mother, Joseph and Dr. Handy & myself hope to leave here the beginning of May. You cannot imagine

how anxious we all are to see you and Hannah and all the children. I often imagine I can see them particularly your Joseph skipping along on one leg sometimes. Our Joseph was quite enthusiastic with joy when he got the Letter pr. Mr. Throcter, he was all spirit, saying what they would all do when we got out to you. Before you left us I indeavoured to realize the trial it would be to part with you & Hannah and the children & Edward & Josephine and their child and thought I was prepared for it, yet I confess the length of time has made no difference but my feelings as well as your Mother's become stronger every day, and every time we hear from you, and hear let me say as it respects yourself in your prospects for the College altho it has not gone on as we expected yet if it should entire fail, but of which you seem to think there is no danger, I would faintly hope it may go on, I firmly believe if it should, there will another door open for you, and in thinking on the subject over and over again from time to time I am fully of the opinion your getting up a large Boarding School for Girls or an Academy for Boys would put you in a situation were whilst your own interests were promoted you could do an imense deal of good in the Education of others. Nothing but those two ends ever induced me to consent to your accepting Dr. Fly's Proposal to go West. I wrote you a letter in answer to mine a short time ago which I hope you have got before this. Our prayer is that the Lord may order things so in his kind Providence that we see you all in May when we can and will form our plans. It is my purpose and determination to place you in such circumstances that if its Necessary for you to leave the College and open an Academy you shall have the



If the Lord had left me to myself I might and would now be in great difficulty as its almost impossible to get money. I have no doubt many will be Ruined. The last year or two people have been mad, but the Lord Reigns and Blessed be his Holy Name. We are in our usual health. Williar, James, Joseph, Dr. Handy, Mary Ann, Eliza Peese & Charity with myself unite in Love to you, Hannah, Edward, Josephine and all the dear little children, and now may the Blessed God our Saviour who has Loved and laid down his own life to Redeem us Bless you all is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. MASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes to Letter of March 22' 1837.

"Joseph on one leg"

page 57. My brother Joseph, early in childhood, developed "white swelling" in one of his knees. Unwisely, the doctor compelled him to take exercise; and he was made permanently lame and hump-backed.

" " "Mr. Throcter"; do not know him.

" 59. "Muldrow" was the treasurer of Marion College.

" " "Gallagher", I do not know.

" 60. "Eliza Reese and Chauncy"; do not know them.

Philada. April 8, 1837.

My dear Son

Your Letter dated March 8 came to hand and gave us a renewed cause of thankfulness to the Lord for his continued Mercys to you, Hannah and the children & to Edward & his wife & child. I have received the letters you mention as having written to me. Through the Mercy of the Lord we are all in our usual health. It is still our intention to pay you a visit. We expect to leave here the beginning of next month if nothing unforeseen occurs when through the Protection of a kind Providence we hope to see you, when the different subjects in which you and Edward, Dr. Handy and all of us are interested in we shall be enabled to consult and determine on. I need not again repeat to you how anxious your Mother, myself, Joseph and all of us are to see you all it will be indeed a joyfull meeting to us indeed. I have not yet succeeded in selling our farm, nor do I expect I shall as I before mentioned to you there is indeed a great Pressure for Money. There have been many heavy failures of men in trade here & N. York and other places. Money is harder to get now than ever I knew it before. Genl. Jackson as usual is blamed for the whole of it. The difficultys in the Commercial world is not confined to this Country, but it is equally bad in England. Many heavy failures there also. Now as before expressed, my opinion of the causes are excessive over-trading and speculations in every thing, such as houses, Citys on Paper Lands, all kinds of stocks, the Produce of the country, Pork, Beef, Flour, Sugar and every thing that the hand of avarice could lay hold of. There will no doubt be a

great reduction in prices before 60 days are gone by. I have not seen Dr. Ely nor Mr. Muldrow nor Mr. Gallagher since I last wrote which was two or three weeks ago. The only time I met with Mr. Muldrow was in the street on my way to meeting he was in company with Dr. Ely. They all started to New York and I have not heard of their having returned. Mr. Throcter has been in the store several times. Mr. Dalzell arrived here on Thursday. By him I rec'd a Letter for Eliza Peese. We are going up to the farm on Tuesday when I will give it to her. And now, my dear Son, we may truly say how vaine are all things here below. God alone is the Only Solid good. What a Priviledge it is to us that God our Redeemer is a refuge for us to which we may betake ourselves at all times: It comforted our hearts to find you are sustained and kept in peace of mind by his Almighty arm. We sincerely hope you will be placed in such circumstances that you will have abundant Provision made for yourself, Hannah and the children and I doubt not your effort and example will by the Lord's Blessing be blessed to your children to see them become truly Pious and Followers of the Lord Jesus Christ is of all things the most desirable. Dear children, tel them for me often when I am up at the farm I think I see the whole of them, Joseph skipping along with his lame leg and Uncle and the others following on until my heart fails me and I have to strive to forget their little scenes of merriment. Kiss them all for us and tel them Grandpa and Grandra & Uncle hope to see them soon. I am glad you have rec'd the articles I last sent you and hope their little carriage will add some lito there comfort. I think the charges have been verry high I in-

tend to make some inquiry about it. I paid the freight to Pittsburgh as I have said before. I have much to say but shall defer it until we see you. Hugh & Robert Hamill were here the beginning of the week. We were up in the country at the time. Samuel was here yesterday on his way to Norristown. He said his Father and Mother were well. We are going up on Tuesday, when I think your Mother & myself shall go over to Norristown and see them. I intend to put Thomas in the House to take care of it. I intend to leave the Farm in charge of Jacob & Thomas to tend to the crops. Mr. Throcter intends to leave here on Monday. I have availed myself by the opportunity to write this. We all here unite in Love with your Mother, myself to you, Hannah & the dear children and to Edward, Josephine & their child. And now, my dear son, may the Blessed God and our Saviour Jesus Christ comfort & Bless you all is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. HASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1837.

- page 63. "W Dalzell": do not know him.  
" " "Eliza Reese", evidently some one connected  
with ~~Montgomery Square~~, (or Marion City-?).  
" " "Uncle following"; young Uncle Joseph.  
" 64. "Hugh & Robert Hamill"; my mother's brothers.  
" " Also "Samuel".  
" " "Thomas", & "Jacob", ~~probably~~ employees at  
the Square.

Philada., April 23, 1837.

My dear Son

Through the Blessing of the Lord we are all in our usual health and hope you, Hannah and the children and Edward and his family are all well. The last Letter I rec'd from you was dated March 8. By Mr. Dalzell we heard from you. I wrote you by Mr. Throcter. Dr. Ely expects to leave here to-morrow by him you will receive this. I have not succeeded in selling the farm nor do I expect I shall unless it for much less than I ask. We have been up there and returned to City. Dr. Handy and Mary Ann have left the Square, the Dr. has gone to his father, Mary Ann is here with us. I have engaged Thomas & Jacob to farm it and have put Thomas & his wife in the house. She is to attend to the cows. I have sold all but four cows. You will no doubt be sorry to hear of the Death of your Samuel, this day 3 weeks when we were at the farm he called to see us and took dinner with and was delighted to hear from you all. Your Joseph's letters to our Joseph were read to him and he was very much gratified. On the Following Thursday he was in the woods with his Uncle. His Uncle sent him home with a cart-load of wood. He had not gone more than 100 yards when from some way or other the cart run over him and he died in about an half hour after it. How uncertain is life Poor Boy, when I saw him on the Sabbath he was lively and cheerfull and full of hope for the future, but now his eyes are closed in death and the narrow house encloses him and other Earth has rec'dhim. In the course of the same week there were two other deaths in the Neighborhood, one a lad who was rolling a field, the roller went over him, he was



found dead, the other a Gentleman who fell out of his waggon and was killed instantly. The time is drawing near when we intended to leave for the West. I never was more anxious to do any thing in my life than I am to come and see you, but my dear Son, in all my letters for some time I made mention of the Pressure for money here. This time 3 years ago the Wiggs endeavoured to create a Panic when they had no cause for it. Now there is a real Pressure and a Panic in the Trading & Commercial world. All confidence seems nearly to be gone, it is bad enough here, but in New York the state of things is awfull indeed, a large number have failed and they are failing every day, a specious of fear and consternation seems to possess the Minds of the Commercial men. Money commands 2-1/2 % 3 per cent per month and some have given as high as 6 per cent per month and difficult was at those rates. Within the last three days I have begun to have doubts arising in my mind whether I ought not postpone my going from home in the Present state of things and defer our visit until towards fall, but in the meantime for Dr. Wandy to go on next month. I have not yet changed my mind of the subject, but have thought proper to mention it. As before said I did expect to have hard times but it is far worse than I expected it would be. I feel thankful to the <sup>Lord</sup> ~~the~~ I was kept from speculation to any extent. If I had any amount of money to make up I do not know where I could get it. I had some conversation with Dr. Ely yesterday. Now he arranged his Business I cannot tell, but one thing when he gets out of his present embarrassments I suppose he will of them

for the future. If I should change my mind about leaving home now you will hear of it in due time. At Present I am not pressed for money I have what is necessary and I have no obligations to make up I have got clear of my Marion Citylote, nearly so and now my dear son the sum of the whole matter is is this: Man wants but little nor wants that little long. Godliness with contentment is great gain. Amidst all the Trials and disappointments that you have experienced it has been a constant source of comfort and cause of thankfull to the Lord for that support and Peace of Mind which you enjoy. The Lord's name be Praised. He is indeed a True Refuge, a Present help in every time of need. If you are in want of money let me know. A draft from Edward on me for 150 Dollars was presented last week and will be promptly paid. If you are in want draw on for 100 or 150 Dollars, and now tel Joseph and all the other Children that through the Blessing of God even if we should not think it wise and Prudent to leave here next month we shall in the course of the summer. Your Mother, William, James, Dr. Handy, Mary Ann, Eliza Peese and Joseph all unite with me in Love to you, Hannah & the Children and to Edward & Joseph. And may the Lord Bless you, Support, guide and direct you is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. H-SSAU, Sen'r.

P. S. I have just returned from Meeting I heard Dr. John McDowell preach, he gave us an excellent sermon on having True Felicity, the only source from which we can find and have True happiness in this world of Trouble and Sorrow. To-day is the 23rd of April and we have a snow storm from the N. E. So far we have scarcely

had one what we might call a warm Pleasant day. The Lord Reigns and will do all things well.

W. N.

Monday morning, April 24. I wrote yesterday the annexed Letter in great haste, having understood from Dr. Fly on Saturday he intended to start this morning, but last evening I called on him when he informed me he did not expect to get away before the close of this week. My own opinion now is that he will not get off this week. Mr. Dalzell intends to start to-morrow. I expect he will deliver you this letter. Through the Lord's Mercy we are all in our usual health this morning. We have had quite a heavy snow storm, the Roof of the houses are all covered with snow and the ground is quite white it looks and feels like winter. I will write you again by Dr. Ely, by which time I think we shall have made up our minds what time we shall leave here. Hoping you are all well I remain your Father,

W. N.

Notes on Letter of April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1837.

page 66. "Samuel", do not know him.

" 67. "the Wiggs": grandfather was an intense Democrat.

Philada., April 29, 1837.

My dear Son

Your favour of April 4 has just come to hand we feel thankfull to the Lord for his continued kind care over you all. We are in our usual health. I lately wrote you by Mr. Throcter which I suppose you have got by this time and on Tuesday I wrote you by Mr. Dalzell who left here on that day. It is a cause of thankfullness that you have been supported in your Trials and disappointments, and there is no doubt of the Truth that they that trust in the Lord shall never be moved, and as our day is so shall our strength be. I was and am always glad to hear from you and all the information you have given and never for one moment supposed anything you said arose from being dissatisfied with your situation, but on the contrary knew it was complying with my perticular request. With respect to my complying with Dr. Fly's request of advancing the money I subscribed I shall defer for the present. Your letter to Dr. Handy came to hand in due time and gave great Satisfaction. He is now on a vissit to his Father at Newark. As far as I know his mind is fully made up to emigrate to your ccuntry. We had all along in our minds fixed upon the second week in May as about the time we should leave here, but in my last Letter pr. Mr. Dalzell I mentioned that within 3 or 4 days I have begun to feel and have some doubts about my leaving home at the Present time on account of the Difficultys and Pressure in money matters. You can h ve no idea of the state of things. Fvery subject seems to be swallowed up in the one, the Pressure for money. The failures in New York have already the say amounted to

near 70 millions of Dollars and by the last account from New Orleans they are over 100 Millions of Dollars. The failures here in Philada. Prob bly 10 or 12 Millicns, and when it is going to stop no one can tel. fear and consternation seems to have seized the Trading part of the community. A great multitude of the Mechanical and Labouring class are thrown out of employment. The consequence is and will be a great fall in the Prices of everything. Property such as houses and lands have fallen and indeed there is little disposition in any to purchase. As I said in my last I feel grateful to the Lord for his restraining grace that I was not involved by the alluring Prospects held out last year by certain Persons to inter with them more deeply in the Speculations of that day. I have not yet made up my mind what time we shall start but judging from Present feelings I think it will be some time in the course of next month, If nothing unforeseen occurs. You may rest assured my desire and your Mother & Joseph to see you & Edward and your wife & children are strong indeed, and if from the state of things I should not deem it wise and Prudent to leave home now yet we most certainly shall through the season through the Lord's Blessing. If we should be prevented you may rest assured it will be a great disappointment to us as it will be to you all. However we must submit this as well as all our other concerns to that Blessed God who has thus far upheld and guided us in our Journey through life. What a Mercy and Comfort it is to have an Almighty Jesus to go to who tho he is God over all yet condescends to take Notice of and has a feeling for us in all our Troubles & sorrows. When I look back to this time last year and the state of things the Immense trading & Speculations in Merchandise houses and



lands it has often appeared to me that every one was driven as with a Tornado, every one eager to snap a great fortune in a little time. It seems as if the whole Commercial World was for a time given up to the Covetousness of his own heart, and now when Multitudes at the very moment they thought they had made fortunes, God in his wise Providence has suddenly broke the delusion and men have found that 100 dollars in Paper and 100 dollars in Gold & Silver are two things. I have heard of Merchants and others who boasted on New Year's day they had made the last year some \$100,000 other 200,00 are now Bankrupt and their riches like Palaces of Ice melt before the sun of June & July. It is indeed a time of difficulty & distress with many but I think the Blessed God is going to do us good. This Present chancing strokes are no doubt intended to show us that the Chief end of Man is to Glorify God here on Earth and then go and enjoy him forever. It certainly was a fact that cannot be denied that the thirst and eager pursuit after wealth seems to be the only thing to be desired. Pride & Extravagance seemed to pervade the great mass in our Citys. I take no praise to myself that I was not engaged in Speculation and might this day been involved in the same with others, but to the Lord be the Praise & Glory given. If we should determine not to leave home next month, I still expect Dr. Handy will leave here and by him I will strive to give you all the advise and direction I can about the Purchasing of a Farm. From the Present state of thing the difficulty of Borrowing money I think Dr. Fly and others will have to take less for their lands than they now ask. With respect to my land West is improving, I have no doubt you have

given it all the attention and done all you could in the matter. I see by the agreement made by him and Muldrow he was to have had the contract completed on the first of February last, which he has not done. You will do all you can in it. I still hope to be with you in time to assist you in it. He must be kept to the original contract for fencing as far as it can be done, and as the Timothy is not now in the ground that part must be dispensed with and he paid according to contract for fencing and the number of acres he has Ploughed. You will do the best you can in the whole matter. I approve of your determination to continue your connexion with the College for another year, and I sincerely hope it will commence operations in the course of the year, and I do confidently hope the difficulty which have arisen will operate as a refiner's fire and purify it of some of its worldly dross and make it indeed an Institution which shall have the Holy Spirit's influence and the light of his countenance who is the great Head of the Church and so the Blessing of the Blessed God rest upon it and many young men will be raised up who will be a great Blessing to the West and to the world. I expect you will receive this by the hands of Dr. Fly who expects to leave here on Monday. In a few days I will write you again and inform you of our determination of coming West and at what time you may look for us. And now, my dear Son, don't be discouraged if you should again be disappointed in our not coming. Your mother, William, James, Mary Ann & Joseph all unite in Love to you, Hannah & kiss the dear children for us and to Edward & his wife & child and may the Blessing of the Lord our God be upon you all is the Prayer of your Father,

P. S. I paid the freight of the last goods to Pittsburg. I have been to Miss Leech's store and got a duplicate Receipt. I have no doubt they have over-charged. I shall attend to it and make them refund. The first goods we send I will endeavour to send Hannah's pots, for the balance which may be due Mr. Watts don't draw on me for it until you advise me and receive my answer. If you want any money for your own case in my last I advised you to draw on me for 100 or 150 Dollars.

Notes on Letter of April 29<sup>th</sup> 1837.

page 71. "at Newark", Del. Dr. Handy was from the South.  
75 "Leech" and "Watts"; do not know them.

Sept'r 2, 1837.

My dear Son

When we left you on Monday I had determined to leave here on Thursday and it was agreed that Edward should go with us as far as to Louisville, Kenty, but on our arrival here we found Edward rather unwell he had been caught in the Rain on Thursday evening of last week and on Wednesday he had a slight attack of his old complaint but has got better. He has gone this morning to Palmyra. If he is well its determined he will go with us to Louisville. They are in want of some articles for there store which they could not get at St. Louis. Mother, myself are in our usual health. Josphe was rather unfortunate on Wednesday last, he was cutting with the hatchett and struck himself near the ankle bone, which bled profusely its quite painfull to him he is not able to walk however, Edward thinks it will be well again in a few days. I am sick of staying here Its our full determination to leave here on Monday morning. I am exceedingly anxious to go. Since I have returned here I have rec'd a Letter from Mary Ann dated August 9. She, her children, Wm. & James where all well. Mary says old Mr. McVaugh Died a few days before after a few days' Illness. I have nothing new to say only I see at Palmyra Wm. West's oxen, &c. had been seized by the Sheriff and are to be sold on Wednesday next, and I suppose I shall get nothing more work done by him. I wish you would see Mr. Muldrow and tel him all about it perhaps he can get White to finish the work. Edward and Handy will attend to it as soone as Edward from his journey with us. I suppose, if there is any prospect of getting

anything should he not go to work, will be to commence a suit against him for damages. however If I should not get anything I shall not be disappointed. I shall not write to you again until I get to Pittsburg. I have directed Mr. Throcter if my Letters come for me to send them to you. You may open them and look at them. When we start I shall endeavour to cast ourselves upon the Lord our God. through life he has kept us, he brought us here in safety, he can carry us back and keep us in Peace, quietness and safety to his kind care we submit and cast myself, your Mother & Joseph. When you here of our arrival home let me hear from you and withhold nothing from me which concerns you. be sure to draw for Money in time. Our Love to you, Hannah and Kiss the children for us. and now may the God of Mercy Bless you all and have us in his Holy keeping is the Prayer of

Your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Ms. Joseph wishes you to tel the children that Mr. Gentry shot a large wolf on Thursday morning near his house I took him to see it and cut off part of his tail which he intends to take home with him. The first oppertunity you have send Edward's umbrella home.



Notes on Letter of Sept. 2<sup>d</sup> 1837

page 77. No place mentioned. Apparently, grandfather had made his expected visit to my father at Marion College, and, on his way back to Philadelphia, had stopped at some farm at or near Palmyra, Mo.

" " "Mr. McVaugh"; do not know him.

" " "Mr. West"; do not know him.

" " "Mr. Gentry"; " " " "

" Edward " "Joseph"; my father's brothers.

Pittsburg, Sept'r 17, 1837.

My dear Son

Through the Blessing of the Lord we arrived here safe last evening. We left Edward's house on Tuesday morning 5th inst. and got to Hannibal in the afternoon, where we had to wait for a boat until Thursday morning at half past one we got on Board the "Smetton" bound for Cincinnati, where we arrived safe about daylight on Tuesday morning last. The "Gerhard" came along with us all the way from St. Louis and as the "Smetton" went no further and the "Gerhard" was Bound for Pittsburg we took our passage in her. A few miles above Guyondotte we had the misfortune to Brake one of her main shafts and the fly wheel all to pieces. We had just got up from dinner when it took place. the wheel toare up the floor and threw up the head of the Table braking to pieces and all the plates and dishes on it creating a considerable alarm but it was quickly over and Providentially no one was injured. it was about half past one when it took place they then went to work and cleared away the Broken wheel and fitted things up by nine o'clock we were under way again with one wheel, and by the Blessing of the Lord we arrived safely here last evening we had a great many Passengers on Board amongst the number 18 or 20 Indians going to Washington City. Upon the whole my own health much as it was when I left you. Your Mother & Joseph are well. Edward has accompanied us and had determined to go all the way to Philadelphia. We expect to leave here to-morrow morning for home where we hope to arrive through the Lord's Blessing on Thursday or Friday next. Our Love to you and Hannah. Kiss all the dear

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children for us and tel them Grandpa and Ma and Joseph parted from them with an aching heart. Now may the Blessed God Bless you and your Family and guide and direct you in all your ways and have us all in his holy keeping is the Prayer of your Father.

W. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Over

P. S. Don't let any one know of the accident, as Edward does not want Josephine to here of it.

✓ Notes on Letter of Sept. 17. 1837.

page. 81. Apparently, my uncle Edward had left his wife and child in Missouri, in order to escort his parents to Philadelphia.

Philada. Oct'r 2, 1837.

My dear Son

Through the Blessing of the Almighty we arrived safe home on last Friday week. I wrote you from Pittsburgh yesterday 2 weeks informing of our safe arrival there. We left Pittsburgh on Monday morning and arrived as before said on Friday afternoon. We found William, James, Mary Ann & her children all in their usual health and anxiously looking for us as they had got my letter informing them that we would start for home on or about the first of Sept'r. Your Brother Edward came with us all the way and will leave here for the West to-morrow morning, and I pray the Blessing of the Lord may accompany him. I was verry much fatigued by the Journey home. I took a bad cold coming up the Ohio but am getting better of it. Your Mother and Joseph were well all the way home. Since our arrival here there has been a constant calling on us for Information of the West. You will I hope see Edward soon and he will give you Personally all about us here. I have been kept Busy ever since I have got home. We shall be verry glad to hear from you and how your Family are after I hear from you I will write you again and from time to time write you giving you all the information I can. Things in the commercial world begin to look better. the state of the church I cannot say much about it yet as I have not had time to look about and hear from one and another but it seems to be rather quieter then it was when I left here for the West. I have sent you by Edward a new Black hat. As I have nothing perticular just now to say and I hope you will soon see your Brother Edward who is the Bearer of

- 2 -

this I will close. Your Mother's health has improved by her Journey. Joseph is well, so is William, James, Edward, Mary Ann and her children, and although I was not well whilst with you nor on my Journey home yet I hope I shall be the Better of it. We all unite in Love to you and your Family. Kiss the dear children for us and may the Lord direct, guide and Bless you is the Prayer of  
Your Father,

Wm. NASSAU, Sen'r.



Notes on Letter of Oct. 21 1837. Philad<sup>a</sup>.

"William, James, Mary Ann"; grandfather's sons  
and married daughter; also "Joseph".

Philada. October 30, 1837.

My dear Son

Your letter dated the 5th Inst. came to hand last week. We were glad to hear from you. Sickness & health, sorrow and joy is the common lot of all. God in his wise Providence has seen it good no doubt for your good that you should be afflicted and your way dark. Whilst we rejoiced to hear from you and that Hannah was confined with a daughter and the children well it made us sorry to hear that you were not well. I wrote you by Edward who left us early in the month to return home and hope he has arrived there in safety. By him I sent you a new Black hat. It was indeed a very pleasant thing to me to put my feet again on the streets of Philada. my vissit to the West in some respects was Pleasant. I do not regret it, as I have seen and know from my own observation how you are situated, and in some respects the condition of the country. My fears from the beginning were that you would not be able to stand the change from the active life you had lived for some years to the confined one are compelled to live now. However you will be able to form a better opinion by next spring. You know my mind on the subject, what course you have to take if you find you cannot stand the confinement. I have not sold our Farm yet and sometimes I think I will not sell it. Since my return home I have been nearly all my time at the Farm. Thomas has done very well but Jacob and Peggy have been at their old dirty work of Lying. Jacob is still on the Farm but does not work for me and I have not seen Peggy so as to spek to her since our return. Thomas is the only hand I have employed on the Farm. Our

stock is small and all the crops in but the corn, and I have found it necessary to retrench so as to reduce my expenses were ever I can. William and James have acted verry prudently during our absence and all my affairs have gone on well. On our return home we found that James's health was not as good as we could wish for the last year he has been more or less troubled with a slight cough and some pain in the Breast. Edward procribed for him and I think his health has been improving ever since and through the Lord's Blessing I hope it may continue to improve. Mary Ann and her children are well. She expects to be confined in the course of next month, so you see your Mother has more trouble in store for her. However, we still hope that the Lord who has ( I con it good that we should be tryed in this way) has nevertheless given us great cause for thankfullness. We have all had food and raiment in abundance our health and lives have been continued to us and when we were sick he has restored us to health again, so that when we survey all his Mercies and look at his dealings we have great cause indeed for thankfullness. I am glad you have a school so near you that you can send Joseph & William to. Tel all the dear children I love them and kiss them for your Mother and myself. We still hope to see you and them again. Joseph commenced going to school last Tuesday. We intend now to keep him at his schooling. The state of things here are much as they have been for some time. Money here is plenty at 6 pr. cent to those who can give good security. I have not yet made up my mind what I shall do as it respects my connexion with Pine Street church. I think it most likely I shall leave there and Prob-

ably connect myself with Dr. <sup>le</sup>Kuyler's or McDowell's church,  
from both I have received an Invitation. They would be happy in re-  
ceiving us amongst them. One thing is certain I shall not remain  
amongst them, I mean the New School Party I have no confidence in  
them. Dr. Fly you will perceive by the Philada. Observer and some  
others are writing Letters on here from which you would suppose he is  
actively engaged in the cause of Religion and Labouring to build up  
the Theological Seminary. I confess I scarcely have patience to  
read them so much what I call deception calculated to deceive as I  
told you ~~when~~ in the West I have no confidence in the students being  
able to support themselves by their labour on the College farm. To  
me its an insult to common sense. Young men and boys before they  
can do the work of Farmers must be taught to plough, sow, plant, mow  
and reap, which cannot be acquired in a day. I have a great many  
calling to see me since my return home, and have indeavoured to  
give all the information I could. The letter which I gave you  
which I wrote to hand to the Trustees when advised by me you will still  
hold until I hear from you and you from me. From the state of my  
affairs I think its likely I shall not pay any more of it. As you  
were present when I gave Dr. Fly & Muldrow my note and heard them  
say what I have said about it in the Letter you have, their havin  
stated they had valued the Lands and Buildings of the College Farm  
at 50,000 Dollars and made it in 500 shares of 100 Dollars. I want  
you at your leisure to write it down and attest it before two wit-  
nesses you can do it privately until you are further advised by me  
on the subject. Dr. Fly, Muldrow & Co. still owe me the 400 Dolls.  
and you had better write a certificate that at my request you gave

gave them notice that I gave up my lots in Marion City and that the notice was in the way they directed you. I have directed Edward to see you about my land. I have directed him to consult you and Handy together you might judge what will be best to be done. The thoughts that occupied my mind were, is there is something like a mile of worm fence, whether it would be best to take that down and Inclose just as much ground as the rails would or have the additional fence made upon the whole it would suit me best to just inclose as much ground as their are rails. The draft dated 9th inst. came to hand and was paid on its being presented. In future when you draw on me do it at 10 or 20 days sight. When you are in want be sure to draw on me for it, advise me from time to time of the state of your health and all other matters concerning your Family, and by spring I hope you will be able to come to some Conclusion. My assistance and advice is allways ready. Our Love to you, Hannah and the children. I would like just now to see you all. All here unite in Love & affection to you. May the Blessed Lord Bless, Guide and Direct you is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. N. SSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> 1837, Phila<sup>da</sup>

page 86. "Confined with a daughter"; my sister Letitia.  
" 87. "Joseph and William"; my brothers.  
" " In the great Church Division of Old and New  
School, the Pine St church, in which grand-  
father was an Elder, affiliated with the New.  
He was pronounced on the Old side, and left, and  
united with the 2<sup>d</sup> Presb. ch.



Philada. Decem'r 14th, 1837.

My dear Son

Your Letter pr. Mr. Stephens & Catherine Snyder came to hand. We where glad to hear from you, that Hannah was confined and the children well. I wrote you by Edward & one letter by mail. For several days I have been looking for a Letter from you, and having nothing to do I have set myself down to write to you and give you all the Information I can of the state of things here. Through the Lord's goodness to us we are all in our usual health, excepting Mary Ann's two children they have been unwell for several days but are getting better. We hope you and your Family are all well. Thursday last was kept by the churches under the Synod of Philada. as a day of Humiliation & Prayer. It was kept by the first & second Presbyt. and I think there was quite a Spirit of Prayer in the churches and it is hoped the Lord will again appear for his own glory and Poure out His Holy Spirit and that there may be a revival of Pure Religion in all the churches not only in our City but throughout the whole Earth. Wm. & James are disposed to go to Dr. Cuyler's church. We shall take a Pew there and after a short time I think your Mother and myself will leave Old Pine Street and connect ourselves there, and Earnestly Pray that Wm. & James may be brought into the vissible Church and be true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have I think fully made up my mind not to be connected Ecclesiastically with the New School and from the spirit of the Resolutions passed by your Presbytery at their last meeting, If those Resolutions are the mind of the other members who where absent, for I take it for granted that Messrs. Potts & McConnell where not there, if they approve of them, I think

your connexions with them is an undesirable one, and I think you will not have any comfort amongst them for the Resolutions I think are the most violent of any that I have seen. That the Assembly will be sustained by the churches, leaving out the 4 Synods that are excluded, I think there is no doubt, and the next Assembly will go on in Purging the Church. It's verry evident from the signs of the times the New School Party are going down. Their great champion, Abso- Peters, The genl. Agent & Sec'y of the Home Missionary Society, has resigned, and from Letters which I have seen and what I know it's verry evident the churches are withdrawing their support from them. My own opinion for years has been that the Home Missionary Society was the opening door into the churches and by which means to had intended to change and remodel our whole church. It certainly will be a subject of great rejoicing to those who may live in that day when all the Disciples of the Lord Jesus shall see eye to eye. Its not so now and it has always appeared to me to be a most unreasonable thing in those who are so liberal in their Creed to admit every one and do away with Creeds & Confessions that the Presbyterian Church should be called upon to adopt those sentiments and lay aside their Confession of Faith whilst the Episcopalians, Baptists, Methodists and all the other Reformed church may each one go on Building up their own denomination without being stigm tized with being . Your old charge at Morris-town has again become vacant by the resignation of Mr. Adair, who left them verry abruptly. Old Mr. called on me the other day and gave me the Information and wanted to know wether you could not be prevailed upon to come and take charge of the church and be their Pastor. I told him I could say nothing on the subject. You no

doubt have heard of the Death of the Rev. Jas. Patterson. He died suddenly a short time past. Yesterday was Committed to the silent grave Mrs. White, the Sister of Mrs. Scott. She had been ill a long time. Your Mother's Brother Peter's wife its expected cannot survive to-day. She has gone verry rapid. So we see the work of Death never ceases but we follow each other in rapid succession. So it will be with us as it has been with generations before us we shall be gone. Every day almost I hear of one and another of our old acquaintances who have died and I feel that at most my days cannot be a great while longer here and I think I feel a growing desire to be found engaged in striving to Promote the Redeemer's Kingdom on Earth. I feel I hope a growing Interest in the Board of Missions.

Thus far the Lord has Smiled and Blessed its operations which are extended through the States. Our Genl. Agent, Dr. McDowell, went to the South in Nov'r and we have been sorry to hear that he is now sick at Charleston, S. C. He has had an affection of the throat and has had an operation performed. He is a most valuable Sec'y and to loose him would be a verry great loss. However we hope the Lord will spare his usefull life to the churches and the cause of Missions. I think the appearances here begin to look more favourable in Religion.

The Ministers of the first & Second Presbyterys have met together frequently and have determined to strive together and become better acquainted with each other and have made arrangements to exchange with each other in their pulpits. They intend to have two churches open every Sabbath night, one the North & the other South of Market Street. They have also they have also fixed on the second Tuesday in each month for the Ministers & Elders to meet together to spend the evening in Prayer. They are certainly stirred up and a kind Spirit is more

manifest. How desirable it is that Christians should walk together in Love and have a kind, forgiving spirit towards each other. However desirable it may be that the Old and New School might be reconciled I now think it will be best for them to separate and act together according to their own views of things. The Contention in our Connexions no doubt has been a serious injury to the Cause of the Lord Jesus Christ and been a stumbling block in the way of many. We hope for a better state of things. Thus far I wrote this letter last Friday. Mary Ann's children have recovered their usual health. Through the Lord's Blessing we are all in our usual health. Your Letter dated Nov'r 24 came to hand on Tuesday and I will now finish this Letter. We are allways glad to hear from you and your Family. We had heard of the resignation of Dr. Fly. I rec'd a Letter from Edward dated 17 Nov. giving me the information. Its no more than might be expected, and what I was prepared to hear of. Ever since I left you in August last your situation and your dear children has occupied my thought and my daily prayer to the Lord has been for his direction to you and to direct me in my advice to you what course will be best for you to take. I confess my feelings towards Marion College are getting weaker every day; there appears to be no confidence to be placed in any of the Promises they make. I wonder how the Trustees think you are to support your Family. I think in their refusing to allow what Dr. Fly had paid to you is a want of Respect for you. What Dr. Clark said about the understanding of the Trustees is to no purpose; they knew you were in the Country and had your services at the Upper College last fall and then

again in the spring at the Preparatory department and I think from respect to your feelings it ought to have been passed over if they could not openly approve of it yet silently to have let it pass by. I feel quite sensitive on the subject and so does your Mother & Mr. & James. It looks as if you where some person no matter what they did to you it would be submitted to and again putting upon you and Dr. McConnell Mr. Potts' duties is unreasonable unless they make you additional allowance ought not to be submitted to. I have no idea that you submit for one moment to be treated in this way by these Trustees as if you where there slave. I would demand my salary quarterly as long as I continued with them. How does Mr. Potts get money? I have no idea he is to be Master and you the slave. Besides as to Dr. Fly whatever may have been his imprudencies in laying out the money by him collected one thing is certain if he had not acted as he did it would not have been collected and as it was from funds thus procured and as they now have your services and have had them at their call more or less for more than a year and have not paid you one dollar I think they show no gratitude nor feeling to you or Dr. Fly.

My dear Son, viewing your Letter I am constrained to come to the Conclusion to advise your leave the connexion by resigning your Professorship this you can look at and in your answer let me have your views on the subject. I shall be on the lookout for Mr. Potts. I have taken legal counsel about my note. I suppose it will give me some trouble. However time will determine that. My idea is as we often talked together when I was with you in the West If you are still determined to remain in the West the sooner you commence the establishment of an Academy on your own footing the better for its



almost certain you will not get a support from where you now are. As the winter is now here of course will not suppose I would advise you to leave there now, but I would take time and would look around me. The request I made of you about the certificate for the 10 shares of stock is not necessary, as I have the Certificate of the President & Sec'y of the Board of Trustees. My counsel says that is evidence enough on that point. My Certificate says I have 10 shares in Marion College and as there is no such stock its a deception. The only way I may have trouble about my note will be there passing of to a third person and then I have my remedy I am informed by a civil action I can recover it again. On the subject of your future course I have a great deal to say but shall wait until I receive your answer to this. Your Mother, Wm., James & Mary Ann all unite in Love to you, Hannah and the dear children. Kiss them all for your Mother and myself, and tel them Joseph remembers them and is daily talking about them. May the Lord Bless you all is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. KASSAU, Sen'r.

P. S. I cannot seal without again giving you my opinion about the Trustees refusing to admit what Dr. Fly paid you. I think and advise you to let them know you feel yourself agrieved by it, for if they had for you though they might not admit it in the Sr's acct, yet as I have before said they themselves would allow it to you wherein the College attendance to the last year. I am vexed at them and wish you were clear of them.



Notes on Letter of Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1837. Philad<sup>a</sup>.

- page 91. "M<sup>r</sup>. Stephens & Catherine Snyder"; do not know them.
- " 93. "Mrs White" and "Mrs Scott": do not know them.
- " "My grandmother's "brother Peter": do not remember.
- " "my days can not be a great while longer".
- Grandfather had retired from business early; and  
thence was a chronic invalid, with a cough.  
His views of life were sad. And yet he lived  
for almost 25 years later, as he died in 1861.
- " "Board of Missions <sup>(Home)</sup>": Grandfather was its Treasurer  
for 30 years.
94. "Dr. Clark": do not know him.
- " "M<sup>r</sup> Connell & Potts": <sup>members of the College</sup> ~~probably members of the Faculty~~ College
- " "Rev. M<sup>r</sup>. Adair", of Norristown.

Philada., Decem'r 22, 1837.

My dear Son

Your Letter dated Nov. 24 came to hand. I mailed a letter for you last week from Catherine Snyder. We rec'd the letter you sent by her of Hannah's confinement, and felt thankful she was brought safely through. In your last you mention the children having been all sick with the chickenpox but that they had recovered again and were in their usual health. In my last Letter I endeavoured to give you my thoughts about your connexion with Varion College. My mind has been very much exercised and concerned about you, since I last week wrote you and so is your Mother and Brothers Wm. & James. I mailed a Letter for Edward to-day and requested him to see you on the subject of your remaining in the College. I firmly believe the sooner you commence something on your own bottom the better will it be for you and your family, for it appears to me the College is so much in debt that there is no certainty of your getting anything from them, and besides it looks now as if Mr. Muldrow was their main dependence. To me it looks like a man leaning on a broken stick, he himself having as much of his own concerns in money matters to attend to as I think he can manage. We have too long been deceived with fair prospects and promises. It was that that led me astray in the first instance and to be deceived any longer by them will be our own fault. Your time is precious and near two years have nearly gone and what have you to depend on? Is it positively known that if your 300 acres allowed you is not fenced and put into Timothy you are to have two dollars pr. acre until it is. I would if its not give a written communication to the Executive Committee and

request a written definit answ - on the subject. I think you told me that in 1836 the Trustees allowed you 300 acres of land as your salary. Now as they refused to allow in Dr. Fly's account what he had paid you I positively would charge them from the date of the Resolution passed by the Trustees, making said allowance. From what you say took place at the late meeting of the Board of Trustees and what Dr. Clark said relative to your appointment and what Dr. Fly said in pressing your appointment looks verry strange and has an only tendency to make one have less confidence in the whole concern for it looks as if all kinds of deception was made use of in order to accomplish there object. Now the Trustees may say what they will about it, they knowing the whole, and you being ignorant thereof they if they had any respect for you and your feelings, however they might be disposed to reject it in the Dr's account, ought to allow it to you, but I am convinced you need expect nothing from them more than they cannot avoid paying. For you and Mr. McConnell to do all the duties of the College in attending to Mr. Potts' duties is unreasonable and I would demand additional compensation for the extra duties you have to perform. If what Dr. Clark sais relative to your appointment by the Board of Trustees, that they were given to understand by Dr. Fly that your services would not be needed and that you would not ne brought to the West for several years be true, it was deception, which I could not have believed he could be guilty of. I wish you would write a short note to the Dr. on the subject and here what he has to say about it. Think well of it. As it respects my note for a thousand dollars its as you know was given for 10 shares

of stock in Marion College. Now from all I could learn there is no such stock, its therefore a deception on me and on all from whom they have received similar notes. Any information that you can obtain from any member of the Trustees about the said stock and how they came to give Certificates of Stock when there was no such stock, let me know. Now again I repeat it, the sooner you are done with Marion College the Better for you and your Family. If you determine to quit the College and still to remain in the West, I think perhaps near Palmyra would be as good a Location as you can get. However before you determine you of course will get all the Information you can. If on the other hand you should determine to leave the West you will advise me thereof. May the Blessed God direct you what course to take in this whole matter. I again repeat what I have often before told you, I will do all I can for you either in assisting you in the West or in your coming back again to the East. In my last Letter I endeavoured to give you some information concerning the state of things here. Tuesday evening your sister Mary Ann was confined with another son. So you see your Mother has her hands full. For the present Mary is doing as well as we could expect. On Saturday was consigned to the silent grave your Mother's Brother Peter's wife. She died of consumption, it was a rapid kind. She did not keep her bed more than 8 or 10 days. I visited and Prayed with her several times. She had never made a Public Profession of Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ yet I think she firmly believed in and rested on the Lord Jesus alone for her salvation so she expressed herself and ap-

peared to be much engaged in Prayer and was calm and resigned to the Lord's will. The state of Religion begins to look more encouraging than it has done for some time past. The meetings I mentioned in my last that it was determined by the ministers & Elders of the 1 & 2 Presbyterys to hold it is hoped through the Lord's Blessing will be a great Blessing to our city. They have determined to have a meeting once every month for the Ministers & Elders to have a free conversation together and another meeting every month for Public service which will be spent in Prayer and exhortation. I attended such a meeting last night in the Central Church, Dr. McDowell's. There was present a number of Ministers. Dr. McDowell, Cuyler, Neill, McFarlan, Byck<sup>n</sup>man, Dinwiddie and Maclean. Dr. Neill spoke. I never heard him so animated before. From what he said the Lord has indeed and of a Truth vissited the inhabitants of Germantown with great Mercy. Two weeks ago he had Preaching for several days in succession, being assisted by the Clergy from the City. From Dr. Neill's statement there have already been added to the Lutheran, German, Reformed, Methodist and Presbyterian churches upwards of 300 persons. He mentioned several cases of a verry remarkable character. He said he has never before seen such a display of the Sovreign Power of the Lord manifested before. Dr. Cuyler have services in his congregation every night this week. The meeting last night the house was full and a solemn silence so much so you could have heard a wisper. May the Blessed God poure oute his Spirit here and on his church throughout the whole world. I have not yet disposed of the farm at the Square. I have concluded to waits until I hear from you before I advertise it again. By this time you will be able to form and come to



a conclusion of your being able to stand the confinement and Labour that is necessary to a Teacher in a College. If you find you cannot it then will become a subject of consideration of great importance to you and to me whether it will be your duty to remain or return here again. I want you to think on this and in reply let me have your ideas on the subject as far as you can. (Joseph has just requested me to inform your Joseph that he has got 2 Rabbits and he would be very glad to share them with him.) I shall do nothing further about the farm until I hear from you and what you finally determine to do. Your Mother, Wm., James, Joseph, Mary Ann and many of your Friends here unite with us in Love to you, Hannah and the children. May the God of Mercy guide and Direct you what to do is the Prayer of your Father.

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.



Notes on Letter of Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1837, Phila<sup>del</sup>  
"your mother's brother Peter's wife"; Peter Parkinson.

Philada. Feb'y 2, 1836.

My dear Son

Your letter dated Jan'y 27 came to hand on Monday, and we were all glad to hear from you. Since I last wrote you Your Mother and Mary Ann have been both verry ill, but through the Lord's Mercy they are better. Mary is as well as usual and your Mother has begun to come down stairs again. This is the first time I have begun to write for about 4 weeks. I have had a kind of fellon on my right thumb and had to keep a poltice on it for near 3 weeks, but it is now nearly well again. We have had between Mary Ann's confinement, her sickneessand her children and your Mother's illness I may say the Dr. has been almost daily here since last Nov'r. With the exception of my Thumb I have no reason to complain of my health. Mr. James and Joseph are and have been in their usual health. No doubt our afflictions are intended for our good, and the Lord sees it necessary to chasten us. May all his dealings with us be sanctified. I rec'd by Mr. Potts your Letter on Christmas day, he spent an hour or two with us he went to New York the next day. I have not seen him since. He promised to call again on his return. Since I left you in Sept'r your situation, your Prospects have been a constant theme of thought with me. Your Mother, Wm., James and several of my Friends such as Dr. Duffield, Dr. Cuyler they have both frequently said to me they thought I ought to advise you to come back to the Fast. Indeed all our Friends with whom I am associated express the same opinion. It has often been a grief to me that I ever advised you to go. When I look at what has occurred and how things have operated, I feel con-

strained to think it was not your duty to have gone or mine to advise you to go. It has so far been a waste of money to no profit. However what's past cannot be undone, and I must acknowledge I was blinded by the glowing representations made, and whilst I have sunk a good deal of money I have reason to be thankful that it is not a great deal worse than it is. What you state about your situation and your prospects is nothing more than I expected to hear. I have no confidence in the whole system of the College. I do not believe the Manual Labour system will ever answer, and as long as they adhere to it they will have nothing but embarrassment. However, to come to the point, you say if there was any prospect of your getting into any way whereby you could support your Family you would resign and wind up your concerns and return. I have been consulting and advising yesterday and to-day with your Brothers Wm. and James. I told them what I thought of saying to you and that is this, to advise you to resign, and return and go on the farm, and immediately to lay the foundation to commence a Boarding School and take day scholars and take the 2 rooms down stairs of the house Jacob lives in, make them into one room, which would make a good school room and answer to hold meetings in which you might lay the foundation for the gathering of a Presbyterian church, and as many of the persons who lived in the neighborhood when you were there are gone and others have come in their place you no doubt could do good in connexion with the school. The proceeds from the farm, rightly managed, I think you can support your Family and Educate them, and let it be permanent thing, and as the Farm is our own you can end your days there and do as much good as you can anywhere else. It met their approbation. Yesterday after-

noon I met Dr. Junkin/ in the office of the Board of Missions we asked particularly about you and your Prospects. I told him verry briefly. He advised me to advise you to come back to Montgomery Square and adopt the plan I have stated to you in this, and so did Dr. Wm. McDowell and Dr. Duffield who have just left here approves of it much, and I think from the Influence now that I can have with Dr. John and Wm. McDowell, Dr. Cuyler, Dr. Mitchell Solomon, Allen and a number of other gentleren some of them from the South, there is every reason to believe you will be able to get as many boys as you will be able to Board and Teach. I know those Friends will do all they can for you. You now have my idea on the subject. This plan suggested itself to me before I left you in the West, but there I said nothing in perticular about it as I concluded it would be best to waite and see how things would go with you and what your prospects would be, and now I am more convinced then ever it will be best for you to return, especia lly as when you amongst the Ideas I belive that I gave you written on paper there was one if you left the College the next course was to purchase a Farm and Establish a Boarding School and I would provide you the funds, but on examining my account I find I have expended more money then I had thought I had and I have determined to purchase nothing more in Missouri, s I have now from the purchase made by Edward & Wandy at Palmyra a heavy debt on me. I have now freely given you my opinion. I have prayed often to the Lord for direction. May he direct you what to do. Your delicate health, your large little Family and so far from all your friends is and has been a constant anxiety to us. If things had

gone on as we were induced to believe they would from the amount of money that was rec'd for the object, and if those who were the leaders in it had acted as we supposed they would there would have been a different state of things. You no doubt could have been by this time comfortably and usefully situated but from mismanagement I consider the whole as good as tho it was extinct. If you determine to resign and return I will give you my advice what course to pursue. You of course will give me an answer as soon as you conveniently can. When you are in want of money draw on me for Fifty dollars at a time, and this as often as you need it. If you can, forward me the charter or act of Incorporation of Marion College by the first opportunity You mention about your notes for Marion City lots. Strive to get them back by all means, for they sell them or put them into other hands you are held bound to pay them. However, I hope you have got them. If you determine to return I would here merely mention to bring nothing back but your Books and Bedding & Clothing. Your Mother, Wm., James, Mary Ann and Joseph unite in Love to you, Hannah and the children. May the Lord direct and Bless you all is the Prayer of your Father,

Wm. MASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Feb 21 1838. Phila d.  
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page 106. "Dr. Junkin": the Rev Dr. George Junkin, the  
first President of Lafayette College.

"Dr. Mitchell Solomon, Allen"; do not know them.

"Edward and Hardy", grandfather's son & son-in-law.



Phil. d . Feb'y

1838

My dear Son

I wrote you last week in answer to your letter of Jan'y 27. Your Letter dated 5 Inst. came to hand this morning. In my Letter of last week I proposed your coming back and going to the farm and as soon as possible to commence a school and with the proceeds from the farm you can support your family. Since then I have prayed and thought on the subject and your Letter I rec'd this morning I am more fully confirmed in the course I advised you to pursue as I am more and more satisfied and convinced in my previous opinion about the whole concern, and now my dear Son, I am the only friend you have on earth who can do and has a disposition to help you, and here let me observe you have many Friends who will assist you and do all they can to get you scholars. On this view of the subject you have many friends, but then you and your Family must be fed and clothed and who is there that has come forward and assisted you with money. Was old Mr. Hamill, or any other person? I have not desired it, nor that they should but feel thankful that God in his Providence has enabled me to do as I have done and it has been a pleasure to me to do as I have done. I regret more and more that I ever advised you to go and that I was led astray in the concern as it too evidently appears now that I was. Your Mother and myself are getting older every day. Our time on Earth in the ordinary length of Man's life here cannot be a great while longer, and as the Lord in his wisdom has permitted you to have a weakly frame and not strong enough to preach often, and you are, as it were, excluded from supporting your Family by Ministerial Labours, now as your Father I request and demand of you to resign your situation in the College and so to arrange your

matters to leave the country in May or June at furthest, which will be the most pleasant time for you to travel with your large family. I have no doubt but Mr. Potts and others will endeavour to persuade you against such a course, but my dear Son, I beseech you not to be persuaded by them. My advice to you is to make your own arrangements silently until you are ready to act and then act without swerving. I feel thankfull now that I did not dispose of the farm. As I said in my last letter, I will settle you on the farm where you can do much good in that neighborhood, and from such plans and arrangements of farming you will be able to support and educate your family with the Blessing of the Lord and you can end your days there unless through the Lord's Blessing you should have your health restored to such a degree as to make it to be your duty to accept of a Pastoral charge. The Lord seems to have all the plans of Marion College and nothing seems to have prospered, and from a frequent view of the subject I am again and again convinced it never was your duty to go nor now to remain there. I acknowledge freely it will, if your Mother & myself are spared, add to our happiness the remnant of our days as I have before told you it was a great sacrifice of our feeling, I may say my feeling in your going to the West for you know your mother never approved of it, but then I thought you would be placed in a situation where you could be very usefull and support and Educate your family, but in this we have been mistaken, and now judging from the state of the whole concern it looks as if the frowns of the Lord was upon the whole concern and I have no hopes for the future that it will be any better. Therefore I again say and insist upon your

resigning and coming back. Since I left you I have often regretted the Purchase made in Palmyra, but so it is, it cannot be undone. I now privately inform you, your Brothers, Wm. & James, will never agree to let Mary Ann go to Missouri, nor has she any disposition to go, but on the contrary the very thought of Missouri makes her sick, and she every day says she never will. You now have my mind on the subject. I shall look for your answer with your determination. The Information you gave me in your last letter on the subject of the 10 shares of stock held by me in Marion College is just what I wanted. Mr. Potts promised me he would not nor did not intend to part with any of the notes. If he has parted with them I may have some trouble. However I shall not willingly pay any more. Your Information is therefore important for me. I hope you will endeavour by all means to get your notes back again. Do not pay one cent on their accounts. I would <sup>not</sup> trust any of the concern from the involved state in which they are in money matters they will do many things in order to save themselves. As it respects the future course of Dr. Fly in Projects I need not say anything to you about your being again connected with him for I know you have no intention to do so. With respect to your notes, this time last year when Dr. Fly was here and I got back my 2 notes from him he told me he had your notes. I told him you had your deeds of course. I did not get the notes. I hope you will loose no time, if you have not already got them, in seeking after them. As I said before, if they have parted with them you may have some trouble about them. However, I hope you will not. The note which Ely, Muldrow, McKeen and others gave to the Mechanics Bank as security

for the notes that they got discounted, amongst which was one of mine, became due on the 3rd Inst. and not being paid, was protested. I am now called upon and notified that my note remains unpaid and shall have to pay it unless they can get it from the concern. I expect they will commence suit for the balance due on said note, about \$15,000. The Bank of the U. States has a judgment for \$50,000 against Dr. Fly, which they have put into execution. You mention he has made an assignment to Mr. McConnell & Dr. McClellan. Edward in a Letter he wrote Wm. & James informed them of it, but nobody here knows of it. Naturally I have thought it will be best for you to bring back with you nothing but your Books & Bedding and sell all the rest, and perhaps you might sell some of your Books if you can get a large price for them. These are merely suggestions I have thought of. In my last Letter I informed you that your Mother, Mary Ann and her children had been sick. Mary is now in her usual health, your Mother is improving. I told you of my thumb, it mends slowly. It's with considerable difficulty that I can write. I have not had a Letter from Edward for some time. Through Mercy we are now I may say nearly in our usual health. All here unite in love to you, Hannah & the children. Kiss them for us and may the Lord Bless, guide and direct you is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

P. S. I would here mention for your satisfaction the course I have advised you to take meets the cordial approbation of Wm. & James and some of my most esteemed friends.

Notes on Letter of Phila<sup>d</sup>. Feby - 1838

page 109. "old Mr. Hamill": my mother's father.

" 111 . "Mr. Keen": do not know him



Philada., March 12th, 1838 .

My dear Son

I wrote you 2 Letters in answer to your letters of the last of Jan'y and first of February in them I gave you my opinion and advice as to your future course. The first letter was about 3 weeks past, the other about 2 weeks ago. I hope they have come to hand by this time. This I expect you will received by the hands of Mr. Potts. he returned to Philada. this day 2 weeks and has been here ever since. I believe he has not succeeded in getting the Loans he wanted, nor do I think he will, as money is greatly needed, and so much has been said and done in relation to Marion College no one seems to have much confidence in it. The causes that have produced this I need not repeat, for you know it. I have had a good deal of conversation with Mr. Potts. he has been anxious to know my mind about your continuance in the College. I have said nothing to him to give him the least idea you have any intention to resign. If you should resign and leave the country no doubt he will be disappointed. he expects to leave here to-morrow for the West. He no doubt is greatly disappointed and is depressed in spirit. I do not wonder at it. Now the College is to get along I do not see. I am sorry for it. I still hope some way may be opened whereby they may be relieved from their embarrassments. On Saturday I succeeded in getting from Mr. Potts my note for 1000 Dollars that I gave to Fly, <sup>&</sup> Muldrow for 10 shares of stock. I told him I did not consider there was such a stock. He paid and insists on it there is and that I have so much interest in the property. During the conversation I had with him on his civ-



ing me up my note, I found it necessary and important for me to mention what Dr. Fly had said to you about the 10 shares that Dr. McClelland held and likewise what Mr. Jones said. I found he has had the subject legally conceded, and as I was told by Mr. Chester that if they put the notes into the hands of the persons in New York I would be compelled the whole of my note, I found he knew verry well what to do. I therefore proposed to him that I would give him 100 Dollars more and give him back 5 shares of stock and he could give me a certificate for 5 shares, which, after a good deal of talk, he acceded to, and gave me my note, and I gave him 100 Dollars. I now have a Certificate for 5 shares of stock which I call deception. We have treat-ee Mr. Potts with kindness and attention. He calls nearly every day to see us. I introduced him to Dr. Cuyler and Dr. McDowell. Yesterday morning he preached for Dr. Cuyler; and here let me tel you I took my certificate from the 3rd Church and have handed to Dr. Cuyler, so that we are now in the 2nd Church. On Saturday I asked Mr. Potts if any of the ministers of the 3rd Presbytery had invited him to preach for them, he said they had not, and I think from the manner they have treated him he will not have anything to boast of of the superior Christian spirit of the New School party. The Old School party have treated him kindly. I have used all the influence I could in his behalf. The course of events that have occured in Missouri in the failure of the Theological Seminary, altho its a serious disappointment to you and me, yet in the end I think it will be for the best. Since I returned home from the West I have been urging the claims of Missouri on our Board. The Executive Committee see its importance, we

are making strong efforts to get 3 or 4 efficient ministers to go to Missouri. I hope we may succeed in getting them. I agree with you in opinion, the importance of a good College in Missouri in which the minds of young men will be rightly directed as far as it is in the power of means to effect it is of immense importance, and if your health was such and the situation of your Family I would encourage you to make every sacrifice and forego every comfort in order that you might be instrumentle in Indeavouring to effect the object and would be willing on my part to assist you with pecuniary means. But the Lord in whom is our life has seen it good to permit you to have such a constitution as does not justify your continuing in the place you are, taking into consideration the necessity of Educating your own children. However, on this subject I wrote you fully in the 2 Letters spoken of in this. I regret the course things have taken. So it is. I have no doubt Mr. Potts & the Trustees will make great efforts to get you to continue in your connexions with the College. I have only to say to you you have tried it sufficiently long enough to know what course to take. In my last Letters you will see my plan for your future course if you return to the East. There will be, with a little exertion, a wide field for usefullness here. When you make up your mind what to do will advise thereof immediately that I may know what to do. In consequence of Mary Ann & her children and your Mother's sickness we have not been up to the Farm since the last of Novem'r. If nothing unforeseen occurs your Mother and myself intend to go up to-morrow morning. The season is now fast approaching when it will be necessary for us to be up there a good deal. I intend to keep Thomas on the farm to work, but Jacob will go off on the first of April.

Through the Blessing of the Lord we have been again spared through another winter. We have had our afflictions by sickness but the Lord in Mercy has healed our sickness and restored us to health again so that we are all in our usual health again, for which Blessing we desire to Praise his Holy Name. You mention in your Letter of Feb'y 1<sup>st</sup> the conversation you had with Dr. Fly his suggestion of his future course, his teaching Theology, between you and me, from the disposition he has to blame Mr. Potts as being the cause of all his trouble to my mind is a verry bad evidence that his afflictions have not been sanctified to him. To me it appears evident his connexions with Marion City and other speculations are the chief cause of his trouble and Imbarrassments in connection with the ground he took in laying out the money which he collected for the College instead of handing it over to the Treas'r of the Board. I pity him and pray for him that the Lord may sanctify it to him and bring him to a better mind. I have not rec'd a Letter from Edward since the beginning of Decem'r. Poor Edward, my heart aches for him. I have serious fears for him. May the Lord of Mercy keep him and support him. Your Mother, Mr., James, Mary Ann, Joseph unite in Love to you, Hannah and kiss the children all for us. May the Lord Direct and Bless you is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

P. S. We have had a verry moderate winter until Feb'y when the cold weather set in. It is now verry fine spring weather for March.

Notes on Letter of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1838. Philad<sup>a</sup>.

page 115. "W. Jones": I do not know him.  
" " "M. Chester": " " " "

Philada. March

1838.

My dear Son

Dr. Handy arrived here yesterday, by him I received your letter and the children's letter to Joseph. It was indeed pleasant to hear from you all, although with it there is much to lament that you are in the situation so uncomfortable and our Family has been so much deranged. We are sorry to hear of the indisposition of Isabella, and that Hannah's health has been injured. I also by Handy rec'd a Letter from Edward in which he mentions Isabella's illness, and that he was going to see her the next day. I hope she will get better. Its painful indeed to us that your condition has not been bettered but rather worse by your removal to the West. I wrote you two letters in answer to your Letters of the last of Jan'y and beginning of Feb'y, which I hope you have received, as in them I gave you my mind fully and advised you what course I wanted you to take. I will briefly give you the substance. I requested you to resign your Professorship in the College so as to leave there in May or June when it will be most pleasant for you with your children. I mentioned that I had lost all confidence in the concern, for reasons given. I mentioned to you not to be persuaded by Mr. Potts or others to remain, but to be firm in your determination. My plan is, as stated in those two letters, for you to come to the East and go to the Farm and make it your permanent home, and to lay the Foundation for an Academy and make some alterations in the Tenant's house where you could hold your school and hold meetings on the Sabbath and lay Foundation for a Presbyterian church and as many of the old neigh-



bours had gone away and others were taking there place who were not under the Influence of the Baptists, there was a prospect of your through the Blessing of the Lord of doing good, and from the Proceeds of the school and proceeds from the farm you could have your children Educated and support your family, and as the farm is our own I Intended to have it so arranged that you could end your days there, unless God in his Providence so firmly established your health that it would be your duty to take charge of a congregation. All this met the approval of your Mother, who is exceedingly anxious for you to come back, and your Brothers Wm. & James approved of it, and so did several of my Friends, Dr. Cuyler & Mr. McDowell and a few others, and who I have no doubt will do what they can to assist you in getting scholars. I further stated that as I and your Mother were advancing in years and in the ordinary time allotted to man here on Earth our time at the furthest cannot be long, and therefore as I was the only Friend who has assisted you and as your Father, I felt exceedingly anxious to have you placed in a situation where through the Lord's Blessing you could support and Educate your Family seeing the object of your going West, the Theological Seminary, has failed, and your state of health will not justify your taking charge of a congregation. Therefore the more I think of it every day I am more and more satisfied with the course I have requested you to take and expect without hesitation you will comply and give me as early Information thereof as you can, in the meantime as shall so arrange and go on in putting in crops that you will be enabled to go on the farm immediately after your arrival here. We have and shall continue to make



our daily supplication for you to the Lord that he may guide, direct and have you and your family under his special care and Protection in your journey to the East, and further I advised you to sel all your goods excepting cloathing, Bedding & Books; all the rest I would sell and perhaps I have thought if your goods were in Palmyra you would get a better price for them. However of this you will be the best judge. Of course what you sell will have to be for cash. In the meantime I mentioned if you were in want of money to draw on me for 50 Dollars at a time, and this you can repeat as often as it is necessary. Of course when you are ready to start you will need money to pay your way back. On this subject, as it is time enough, I will say little, only the money will be provided for you and greatly shall I rejoice if its the will of our Heavenly Father for my eyes to behold you and your Family, your wife and the dear children back here again and at the Farm at Montgomery Square. I wrote you by Mr. Potts in which I informed you of the reception he met with amongst his New School Brethren, and that he was verry desirous of knowing what your intention and mine was of your continuing in connexion with the College. I gave him little satisfaction. I believe he hs not succeeded in getting the Loan for the College. The state of Religion here we hope is getting better. In several of the churches there have been considerable additions and generally the feeling on the subject of Religion is better and we hope and pray the Lord will greatly revive his work not only in our city but throughout our whole land and the whole world until the Earth is full of the knowledge and glory of God. Your Mother and myself have taken our certificate

from the 3<sup>d</sup> church and have connected ourselves with the 2nd, Dr. Cuyler. I thought it would be best for our Peace and Comfort to do so, as I could not be happy. Things would be constantly done and said which would make us feel unhappy. It at first was a considerable trial to me to think of it, however it is now done, and I hope it is and will be for good, as we all go to one place of worship. James still is threatened with his old complaint which he had last winter and through the summer. Its thought his liver is somewhat affected. However we hope for the best. The Lord reigns. We desire to trust him and to cast all our care upon him, who alone is sufficient to direct, support and keep us in this world of Sorrow. And now, my dear Son, you have my mind on the whole subject. Again my spirit sinks within me when I look at you and your Family situated as you are in the West, but its our duty to submit to him who directs all things and hope you may again be bro't back to the East, and my Prayer to the Lord is that my life may be spared to see you fixed. I have not yet had any conversation with Handy on his going back to Missouri. We are going to the farm in the morning, I shall wait until our return, which will be on Friday next. I feel for Edward. If you return to the East, if Handy goes to the West in a few weeks, which I suppose he will, even if he should not continue there, I have been thinking I would advise him to return as soon as they can settle their business. However on this subject I cannot say much at present. I would mention to you that we have heard Edward was rather intemperate. It caused us a great deal of sorrow. I wrote a long letter to him on the subject the beginning of Nov'r. Take the first opportu-

ity if one offers of talking to him kindly and affectionately on the subject without his knowing I said anything to you about. Your Mother, Wm., James and Joseph with Mary Ann all unite in love to you, Hannah and the children. Kiss them all for us and tel how glad Joseph is that he hopes to see them all here again in the course of the summer. How may the Lord Bless you all is the Prayer of

Your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Philad<sup>a</sup>, March - 1838  
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page 119. "Isabella" "Hannah": 2 of my sisters.

" 122, "Edward rather intemperate": that is  
true; indeed, worse than intemperate.

"James"; a brother of my father.

Philada., April 30, 1858.

my dear Son

Your Letter dated the 10th Inst. came to hand on Saturday evening. I also rec'd your letter containing the Act of Incorporation of Marion College. We were glad to hear from you and that you were all well. I now feel quite a Burden off my mind, and can assure you we are truly glad you have given your resignation and only regret your having to continue teaching until the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, and let me observe here, upon no consideration, would I be prevailed upon to continue in their College. It is one continued system of deception, and must continue so whilst it is conducted as it is and has been upon plans and Prospects which can never be realized. I consider it altogether unjustifiable on any principle of common honesty to induce person to consent and accept appointments to offices with Promises of a salary which depend on funds not in hand but to be procured hereafter. Therefore, whilst I mourn and am sorry you are there, yet I am heartily glad you have resigned. You say you must stay until the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, as your quitting now the College will be seriously injured and the students will not be satisfied, as they have paid for the whole term in advance. So says Mr. Potts. Well, who has got the Money? What has gone with it? Have they paid you any of it? As to the College being injured, I can only say no one here has any confidence in it, and its verry certain as to its being in a worse condition in public opinion here in the East, is hardly possible. All my Friends here are verry anxious for your return to the East. A short time ago I told your Friend, Professor Thompson, what I had advised you to do. He rejoiced at it. I see him on Saturday, he told me



he had one scholar for you, and was verry anxious to know if I had heard from you. He will make every exertion for you and so he said Mr. Bellwell and Mr. Wilson would and so will many of my friends. I hope you will not be influenced by anything Mr. Potts or any of the Trustees can say. Be firm and determined. I hope and Pray the Lord will guide and direct you in all your ways. I appreciate Mr. Potts' zeal and seeming interest for the College, and am fully aware of the importance of Education, yet, all things taken into consideration, I think differently from him. Their conduct towards you and your family manifest no feeling. They ought to look at your large family and delicate state of health, and as they have put the whole of the duties of the College on you and Mr. McConnell, I would demand compensation for it. As you have attended to Mr. Potts' duties through the Sessions so far, he ought to have made no objection to your quitting now, so as to give you time to prepare for returning Eastward before the warm weather came on, and there is danger of the water getting low, and as to your continuing to teach until the 24<sup>th</sup> of June I would do no such thing. I advise you immediately to commence attending to your arrangements in preparing for leaving the country. As self is all they think of, so you must think of yourself and Family. Dr. Handy will leave here for the West the begining of next week. I have requested him to assist you all he can. I advise you bring back your Beds and Bedding, your looking glasses you can pack in with the Beds, your Cloathing & your Books and the Map you have of Marion College bring it along with you. All the rest of your goods I advise you to sell either at Public or Private sale for cash or credit just as you may think will be for the best. I wish you would make Edward a



present of the little carriage for his children. I suppose Edward will purchase some of your articles. You had as well see him on the subject. If I were out with you I could render you great assistance, but you must do the best you can. As to funds which you will want, after you have collected all you can, I shall request Edward & Andy to advance you all you may want, and if they have not got any money on hand you can draw on me for what you will need at twenty days after sight. Your Mother, Joseph and myself are going up to the farm about noon to-day in order to attend to having the garden put in order and things planted. I intend now to spend considerable of my time up there. Jacob has left the farm and lives in one of George Weaver's houses. Thomas is now the principle hand on the farm. I rejoice to inform you that, from all we have heard of the appointments of delegates to the next Assembly, we have good evidence to believe the Orthodox party of our church at the approaching Genl. Ass'y will have a majority, if all the delegates attend, leaving out the Excinded Synods of between 60 & 70. Its truly wonderfull, at the verry time when the New School party thought they had every thing in their power and intended to change and model things to suit their views, to be thrown into a minority is wonderfull indeed. We have great reason to Praise the Lord for his Mercifull Interference. I think after this Genl. Assembly we shall have peace in our church. As we intend to go up to the farm to-day I have had to write this in great haste. I will write you again by Dr. Andy, and I have requested him to advise you Immediately of his arrival, and I hope you will as I advised you, take time to make your arrangements im-

mediately. Through the Blessing of the Lord we are all in our usual health. Your Brother James is better then when I last wrote you. Dr. Handy has just told me he thinks his complaint is removed. And now, my dear Son, we no not what a day may bring forth, yet trusting in the Lord our God who thus far has been our helper, we will still pray to him for you and all our children. Your Mother, Wm., Jas., Mary Ann, the Dr. unite in Love to you and all your Family tel the children. Joseph is delighted and rejoicing at the Prospect of seeing them here again. May the Lord direct you and the Light of his Countenance be lifted upon you and may he be your Refuge and defence is the Prayer of

Your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of April 30, 1838. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

Page 125. "Prof. Thompson": do not know him.

" 126 "Bellwell and Wilson": do not know Wilson; but I think that "Bellwell" must be the Rev. Mr. Belville.

" 127 . "George Weaver": do not know him.

Philada. May 8, 1838.

My dear Son:

Your Letter dated April 10th came to hand. I wrote you in answer in 2 or 3 days after, that whilst we lamented the necessity of your doing so, yet we rejoiced that you had done it, and shall not cease to pray to him who Ruleth in heaven and on Earth that he may have you and your Family in his Holy keeping and guard and defend you from every evil and bring you all in safety back here again. Dr. Handy leaves here for the West to-morrow morning Mary Ann does not go with him, nor do I think she ever will go to Missouri, as she is much opposed to it, as well as her Mother, Wm. & James. In my last, I mentioned to you that I would not confine myself to attending to teaching until the 24th of June, but that if I did stay til that time I would take time and make my arrangements to leave there as early as I could. I need not tel you that since things have turned out~~as~~ as they have, your Friends here are all glad that you have resigned and are coming back. I dvised you that bring back with you your Beds & Bedding, your looking glass you can pack in the box with the beds. Your Clothing, your Books, and all the rest you had better sell. Your best ax cost near three dollars. Unless you can get the value for it, I would bring that back, as there is none at the farm. I mentioned to you to give Edward the little Carriage for his children, and that perhaps Edward, as they may want some cups & saucers and Plates of some other articles you can sel them to him. Dr. Handy will render you, and so no doubt will Edward, all the assistance they can. If all here feel quite concerned for Edward. If Dr. Handy should re-

turn, he will be alone amongst strangers. I have thought so much on the subject lately my mind has become quite confused on the subject. This is my only comfort, the Lord reigns over all, and has and I hope will be our constant prayer for him. The Lord I hope will bless him and grant him grace and help and enable him to live a life of Faith upon the Lord Jesus Christ. I do not know what Edward's intention is whether he will remain in the West or not, should Dr. Handy leave there in the fall. I have written to him on the subject. Your Mother and myself spent nearly all last week on the farm and intend to go up again on Friday. We propose to spend a great part of our time there. The season here is very backward, the weather is cold and wet. Fire is necessary as much so as it was in the winter. The Foliage on the trees is just putting out, yet the grain looks well and the prospect for a crop is good. Through the Lord's Blessing we hope for a Fruitfull season. In my last letter to you I mentioned that if you did not get your money for the College, if Edward & Handy had any on hand, they might advance it to you and charge it to me, but, if they had none, you might draw on me for what you might want at twenty days after sight. As you will I hope receive this by Handy you will personally hear many things from him, and its quite probable I shall not write to you again unless something special occurs. We are all well and Joseph in particular, when through the Blessing of the Lord we shall again see you here again. We all unite in Love to you, Hannah and kiss the dear children for us. May the Lord Bless you is the Prayer of your Father,

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W. MASSAU, Sen'r.



Montgomery Square May 31, 1838.

My dear Son

Your Letter dated May 14 came to hand yesterday. I rec'd your Letter informing me that you had resigned your office. I wrote you an answer in the course of a few days, in which I gave you my advice. I wrote you again by Dr. Handy, who left here about 3 weeks ago. I hope both Letters have been received before this. I mentioned that Dr. Handy would assist you all that was in his power. I said that if you could not sel your goods for cash you had better at credit and take notes for the amount, and leave them with Edward & Handy to collect. You mention in your last that you have not been able to get from Mr. Ashburner what he owes you, nor of Mr. Mullen. I would also give Edward & Handy an order for the same and leave it with them for collection. I requested Edward & Handy, if they have any cash in hand, to let you have as much as you may need and charge me with it, but if they have none you may draw on me at twenty days after sight for as much as you may need to bring you and your family to Philada. I need not tel you we w<sup>ere</sup> glad to hear from you and your family. We shall Indeavour to pray for you to the Lord that he may have you in his holy keeping, guide, guard and defend you and your family by the way and bring you back in Safety. Many of your old friends are waiting to see you, and as things have taken the turn they have in the West and the state of our church, I am more then ever satisfied with the course you have taken. As you will se by the Presby'n the proceeding of the Genl. Ass'y, the New School party have become desperate. They have gone off and organized another Assembly, so that <sup>1</sup>/<sub>18</sub> here you are now, they being all New School, you



would be uncomfortable and could not be very usefull. I am sorry to hear of the state in which the College is in, and I have no hopes of its being much better soon. However, from the manner and other things connected with it, perhaps it is all for the best. The Lord reigns. We are now at the Square, and have been here for near 3 weeks. We have our corn, potatoes, oats and everything sown and planted. The season so far has been cold and wet, so much so that fire this morning is quite needfull for us. However the prospect for a crop looks well. The wheat and rye on our farm looks as well as ever I see it. The oats & grass is coming on. Our corn is up, and if the worms leave it alone I hope it will do well. The apples & cherries promise to be abundant, and the things in the garden are coming up. It will indeed be cause of great joy and thankfulness if you and your family are brought here in safety. Joseph is just now requesting me to tel your Joseph and the other children he has 7 Rabbits. I bought him 2 old ones and they have 5 young ones, 4 white and one black, which he is keeping to divide with them. There are many things I would like to mention, as through the Lord's Blessing we hope to see you soon. You did well not to agree to unite with Dr. Fly in teaching. I think you have enough of promises and prospects in Missouri. Through the Lord's Blessing I am in my usual health. Your Mother is getting her usual health restored. Mary Ann and her children and Joseph are up here with us. They are well. Wm. & James are in the City. I hope they are well. James is rather in a delicate state. However I hope as the warm weather is at hand and he intends to be good deal with us his health will improve. Wm. is in about his usual health. I think its very doubtfull if Mary Ann ever agrees to go to Missouri.

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When you se Dr. Wandy, which I hope you h ve before this, he will  
tel you more perticularly how we are. All unite in love to you,  
Hannah and all the children. May the Lord bless you all is the  
prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of May 31<sup>st</sup>. 1838: <sup>Montgomery</sup> Square

Page 133. "Asburner" "Mullen": do not know them.

## Notes.

My parents left Missouri, with their seven children, my sister Lilitia being a babe in arms, and reached the Farm at the Square in June 1838. Though I was only 2 years and 9 months I distinctly remember losing, from the deck of the Ohio steamboat, my new velvet cap.

At the Square, when I was about 4 years of age, my left leg below the knee was broken. The physician who attended was Dr. Foulke. His descendants are living in the region today. While I was sick, a Miss Latta, from Chester Co. visited my mother. Her niece became my wife.

At the Square, was born my sister Matilda. There also died my young uncle Joseph. His was the first coffin I saw. I remember watching from the gate, the funeral carriage drive away to Phila<sup>del</sup>. In the Spring of 1841, my father removed to Easton, to Lafayette College. I should have mentioned above, that our return from Missouri was too late for my mother to attend her father's funeral.

At Easton, were born my brother Charles and my sister Emma.

Part Second.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1848

to

Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> 1849

Philadelphia, May 22, 1848.

My dear Son:

Since I last wr te you I have been labouring with a bad cold. I have been quite unwell, my cough has been verry bad. However I hope I am getting better. I will in a few days write you again on the subject of your last letter. Mr. Fairbourn has just called on us and sais he going to Easton in the morning. Mr. Fairborn has been ill, which I suppose is the cause of his not sturing sooner. By him, you, mother has sent the pattern of a dress for your Daughter Hannah, which she presents her with, and hopes she will accept it as token of affection for her. I have not time to write any more. Mary Ann, the Dr. and their children are in there usual health, as is also Wm. and his family. We have great cause of thankfullness to the Lord for His many mercies. May the Lord bless you ll is the Prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.



Notes on Letter of May 22<sup>d</sup>, 1848. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 138. "Mr Fairbourn" or "Fairborn", (probably, Fairbairn): do not remember him.

" " "William and his family". Uncle William had married his mother's house-maid, Charlotte Marvel. Aunt Charlotte was beautiful, and a pleasant lady, who soon fitted into the wealth that uncle William gave her, barring occasional lapses in grammar. But, the Handy family were always jealous of her. My mother liked her.

Philada. June 1, 1848.

My dear Son

Since I wrote your by Mr. Fairborn we have been very much alarmed for Dr. Handy. Last Wednesday night, he had a Large discharge of blood, he thought it was from his lungs. After daylight he sent for Dr. Janney, who advised him to keep himself quiet, but as the discharge of blood had stopped, he went out and vissited several of his patients. About 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, the bleeding commenced again. Drs. Janney & Crawley are attending him. Since Thursday, he has had no return of bleeding. The Drs. differ in their opinion as to the cause. Dr. Janney thinks he ruptured a blood vessel. On the contrary, Dr. Crawley thinks it proceeds from the lungs. They have directed the Dr. to keep himself quit. He has been nearly in bed since Thursday last. What is to be the issue of it the Lord only knows. Mary Ann has been greatly alarmed and you may rest assured it has been no small trial to us. The Prospects for Mary Ann looks verry gloomy, and we of course feel for her and her children. The Infirmary of body of your Mother & myself seem daily to be Increasing, which are as much as we can well bare up under. However this is our comfort, Jesus lives and is Almighty and he has thus far supported us, and he is our only Refuge. Mary Ann did not receive Isabel-la's Letter, the one dated May 10th until yesterday. I suppose she will write you. I suppose it is now uncertain when Anna will be able to leave home, on account of her father's health. However I sincerely hope and pray the Lord will have Mercy on him and renew his health and spare his life that he may take care and provide for his family.

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However we must leave it with him, he is Gracious and Mercifull,

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full of Pitty and comp ssion, and does not willingly grieve nor afflict us. Its truly so therefore, we are not consumed. Wm. and his family are in their usual health. I hope you and your family are all well; and as it respects your College, the Lord I hope will direct and support you and over-rule all things for the best. I will write you again in a few days, and the meantime, if you have alittle time let me hear from you. May the Lord Bless you all is the prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of June 11. 1848, Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 140. "discharge of blood". Dr Handy's was a case of  
consumption. Of which also, subsequently, his  
wife and 2 of his children died.

" " "Isabella" : my sister.

" " "Anna" : Anne Handy, the eldest daughter.

" 141, "your college" : Lafayette

Philada. June 12, 1848.

My dear Son

I received your Letter last week, and am sorry to hear that things are not likely to get better in the College. I had hoped that the Dr. would have altered his course and confined himself to what properly belonged to him and the Faculty, and let the Trustees managed what properly belonged to them. I let Mr. Janeway look at your letter last Friday, he thought the Dr.'s course was verry strange and would add nothing to his influence; he advised me to show the Letter to Dr. Vanranseleer, which I did when I went into the city. The Dr. told me they had received a Letter from Easton on the subject, and their Board had met on Thursday and had unanimously determined that no more money should be paid to Dr. Junkin~~y~~. From the conversation I had with Dr. Vanranseleer, I think Dr. Junkin~~y~~ has lost his Influence with them. You ask me for my opinion as to I suppose what course you ought to pursue. I think, if I where in your situation, I would adhere and act upon what belonged to the Faculty, and I would not submit for one moment to any usurpt authority either by the President or any other Professor. What properly was the duty belonging to the Faculty as a whole or the Individuals should be adhered to, and when I was satisfied that if the President or any other Professor attempted to act otherwise, I would openly and determinedly oppose them, yet I would do it with calmness. On Saturday morning, we had a short vissit from your son Joseph, he came verry unexpectedly to the City and left here again at 2.0'clock, and is

well and in good spirits, well pleased with his change. I gave him your letter to look at. He was sorry to hear that matters were not getting better. He suggested as I did, which I had been thinking of very much and that is what will be the best course for you to take as to your future action. I suppose you may through Dr. Gray privately get to know something of the course Dr. McKen and his friends intend to take as to the College. Will it be broken up or not? Will the Property be sold? Will they Buy it? Will they start afresh? These are points I think you may get some information on from Dr. Gray, Mr. Green and others who do not approve of Dr. Jenkins' acts. After satisfying yourself on the subject If you think the College is likely to stop, and if you think you could establish a school, the idea Joseph advanced was this, for you as soon as Possible to give notice to your friends and others that you intended to open a school or whatever you may please to call it, and do it soon, so as to be before Dr. Jenkins. Now I have very hastily and with much infirmity of Body and Mind given you some of my ideas. May the Lord guide and direct you in all your ways. My cough is very bad, and its frequency affects my head very much. Dr. Handy has recovered I think his usual health. Anna & Little Fanny were both taken very ill on Thursday last. Fanny has the Dysentery bad, and Anna has had a violent pain in her bowels with Fever. This morning, the Dr. says he does not think there is any change in either of them. William's wife is sick confined to her bed and likely to be so for some time to come. I hope you are all well. May the Lord Bless you all is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Let me hear from you soon. 144



Notes on Letter of June 12<sup>1</sup>, 1848. Phil<sup>ca</sup>.

page 143. "the Dr's course". When my father went to Easton in 1841, the President, Rev. Dr. George Jenkins, had left, because of differences with the trustees. And, the Rev. Dr. John Geomans was the new President. After some years, Dr. Geomans left, and Dr. Jenkins was recalled. But Pres. Jenkins was always a fighting character; and the old quarrel with the trustees started again.

- " " "W. Janeway": Rev. Dr. Janeway.
- " " "Dr. Vauransleer": Rev. Dr. Van Rensselaer.
- " " "son Joseph": my brother.
- " " "Dr. Gray". Rev. Dr. Gray, Pastor of 1st. Presb. ch. in Easton.
- " " "Mr. Keen": one of the trustees.
- " " "Anne and little Fanny": 2 of the Handy children.

Philada. June 30, 1848.

My dear Son

I received your Letter dated the 23 inst. As we expect, Anna will start to-morrow morning, she will of course give you all the information about us folks here. I am pleased to hear that Letitia is getting well again, and that you have received the Balance of yours & Joseph salary, and as it relates to the College, I hope the Lord will guide and direct you in the way and order for you that which will be to his Glory and your good. I have nothing new to communicate. The weather is warm and I do not get much from home on account of my cough. I do not feel disposed to go much any where. Its now about the most trying season of the year to me. If I live we shall soon pass through the summer and the change in the fall, hitherto has made me feel better. However the Lord reigns and he is gracious and Merciful and knows all our infirmitys and has compassion on us and is Almighty to help and saves us with an everlasting salvation from sin and its evils. Shall expect, as you mentioned in your Letter, if anything occurs to hear it from you. May the Lord bless you all is the Prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of June 30, 1848, Phil:

page 146. "Lelitia": my sister.

" " "Joseph's salary": he was Tutor in the College.

Philada. July 5, 1848.

My dear Son

Mary Ann received two letters from Faston this morning, one from Isabella and the other from Anna. We are always glad to hear from you and your Family. We are sorry to hear that Hannah has been unwell and pleased to hear that Letitia has so far recovered her health as to be able to go out. Your Mother and myself are in about the same state of health as we were when I last wrote you. The Dr., Mary Ann and their children are all in their usual health. William and his wife are in about the same as when Anna left here. The children here are well. As to Charlott, they think she is gradually getting better, which I sincerely hope and pray she may. Its a great affliction to M., as well as for herself to be confined to her bed. Anna in her letter mentioned that Charley was well and seemed to enjoy himself, but yet often said he would like to come home. Your Brother William is now here, and at his request I write; he is fearfull and thinks his son Charles is a trouble to you, as you have so large a Family, but yet you do not like to mention it. William is pleased for him to be with you, but at the same time he does not wish to add to your cares. He requests me to mention to you that last Wednesday he wrote to you by mail and Inclosed Ten Dollars. He wishes to know from you if the Letter has come to hand with the money in it. William would be verry glad to receive a few lines from you acknowledging the receipt of the letter, as also regards the subject of what I have written about his son Charles. Yesterday was the

was the 4th of July. Our City was life and yet verry quit. I have heard of nothing new, and I have nothing new to communicate. We live in a dying, changeable world. Yesterday brought verry vivid to my recollection of the times and occurrences of 1798, 50 years ago. I was then a young man in my 18th year of age, full of life and its enjoyments. Pleasure and happiness then filled the Imagination, which have as to this life passed away. This world with all its gaudy dress is a delusion. No solid Peace and happiness now were to be found but in God alone. My heart weeps at the recollections of the past. The companions of my youth have passed away to the world of Spirits. Truly how vain are all things here below. Blessed be God that now in our old age, when the strength of youth is gone and Infirmitys seem to increase we have a Refuge, a hiding place, -The Lord Jesus. William is waiting for this letter to put it in the Post office. I must conclude. Our Love to you, Hannah and the children. May the Lord bless you all is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

P. S. When you write either to me or Wm., if little Charley is not contented and wishes to come home, mention it.

Notes on Letter of July 5<sup>th</sup>. 1848. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

Page 148. "Charlotte": uncle William's wife.

" " "Charley": my cousin, son of uncle William.  
Some one of the cousins, either Handy, or  
uncle William's children, or uncle Edward's  
(who was dead), were constantly visiting  
my mother.

"Isabella", my eldest sister

"Anna"; cousin Anna Handy, visiting us.



Phil da., July 18, 1848.

My dear Son

Your Letter of the 14th inst. came to hand yesterday. William is satisfied about his son Charles, and is pleased to hear that he is in good health. Charlotte his wife is still confined to her bed, but he thinks she rather improving. I hope she may soon get on her feet again. However we must be resigned and wait patiently the Lord's will. The rest of William's family are in there usual health. I asked the Dr. this morning about Anna. He said that when Mary Ann and himself went to get a passage for Anna, which was on Wednesday, the seats were all taken for Thursday & Friday and four seats for Saturday. He then engaged her passage for Saturday and paid Two dollars and fifty cents her passage money, which I suppose will satisfy the agents at Easton, they in the City have neglected to have entered it paid. As respects the College, I am verry sorry to hear that things have not got any better. Indeed I did not much expect they would. I am in difficulty in my own mind what to advise you to do. Your first proposition to send in your resignation now or soon struck me most forcibly. Upon the whole I am inclined to Dr. Gray's opinion. I think if the College is to go down in the fall, and is to be sold, there is no knowing into whose hands it will go into. I suppose Col. McKeen, Mr. Enoch Green and Dr. Gray, and other friends with whom you may have privately conversation and for advice, will assist you in coming to a determination what to do. One thing I think is certain, the sooner you get before the people that you

intend to open a Seminary for young Lads the better. I would rejoice if you could get a situation here or in some other place. Dr. Wm. McDowell, Mr. Janeway, are now away from the City as are others it will be some time before they return. In the mean time I will be looking about and inquiring. Our times are in the hands of that Blessed God who knows all about us and what we need. I hope he will order and direct to that course which will be for his glory and your good. He knows that you and your wife and children need food and raiment, and our Blessed Lord said in consideration on this subject, he that so richly decorates the grass of the field and feeds the young ravens will he not provide? Hitherto he has done it. May our faith be strong in the Lord laying hold on the word of his promise. I suffer very much with the pain in my head which I suppose is occasioned from my coughing. I am now in the store where I have written the above. I whole nervous system seems to be affected this morning from the pain in my head. You must not suppose that I am getting worse then I have been. I do not think that I am, but hope after a while to get better. If any new thoughts occur to me I will write you again in a few days. I hope Anna is well. Tell her her Father Mother, Brothers and Sisters are in their usual health. Your Mother is in about her usual health. Our Love to you, Hannah and kiss the children for us. May the Lord Bless you all is the Prayer of your Father.

Wm. NASSAU, Sen'r.

P. S. I shall be anxiously looking to hear from you.

Notes on Letter of July 18<sup>th</sup> 1848. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 151. "the passage" spoken of, was, I think, by <sup>stage</sup> coach.

Philada., August 24, 1848.

My dear Son

I received yours informing me you had given to Mr. Porter your resignation as a Professor in the College. I hope it was the right course. I suppose there will be a warm meeting of the Trustees. I suppose the Dr. is marshaling all the force he can get for it. We must hope and quietly wait for the Lord's Deliverance. I pray he may direct and order it all for the best. I am glad to hear that you are all in your usual health. Your Mother & myself are as well rather better than when I last wrote you. Wm. and his Family are well. A gentleman from Newark last evening who had just arrived, brought me a letter from Mary Ann. It was written on Tuesday. The Dr. has been verry sick, so much so one night they thought he could not live. Upon the whole, Mary thinks he is getting better, but verry weak. As soon as he has strength enough to bear travelling they will return home. He had a Bilious attack. What a dying world we live in. On Tuesday morning your Mother and myself attended the Funeral of Mr. Tonesby. He was the husband of Sarah the Sister of Henry Christman. He died suddenly on Friday night. I think it would be better for Anna to come home, as her Mother will need her assistannce when she gets home. I was much pleased with the account you gave of the people of Durham. There is no doubt, if they need it, they will be assisted by the Church Extension Committee. I have written these few lines to let you know how we are. Our Love to you all, and may the Lord Bless you is the Prayer of your Father,

Notes on Letter of Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> 1848. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

- page 154. "Mr. Porter": Judge J. M. Porter, <sup>of the college</sup> a trustee;  
" " "the Dr.": President Jenkins.  
" " "from Newark": Newark, Delaware.  
" " "Mr. Jonesby": I do not remember him.  
" " "Christman": the Christmans were aunts and  
uncles of my father, on his mother's side.  
" " "Durham": a place about 10 miles down  
the Delaware river from Easton, where father  
regularly preached.

Philada., Aug. 5th, 1848.

My dear Son

Yours of the 3rd Inst. came to hand this morning, and we are always glad to hear from you. Joseph came down from Lawrenceville yesterday morning and came directly to us. He is going home again on Monday afternoon. He is well and says they are all well at home. I did not go to the City this morning. Joseph went to the store and brought back your Letter. He has read it. Your suggestion about your Letter I think is right. I have I think always been careful in not showing your Letters to others. However, the wisest course is always best to say as little as you can. I have thought a good deal about your situation, and what course would be best for you to pursue. The course you have concluded to take, not to resign but to wait and see, has struck me as the most prudent for you. I still hope something will turn up about the College yet which will not make it necessary for you to resign. I hope the Lord will direct you in all your ways. It is our unspeakable privilege to cast all our cares on him with assurance that he careth for us. As I have not written to you since I received your last letter, I concluded to write you a short letter. Joseph desires me to remember, and his Love to you all. We will write you when he gets home. Your Mother and myself I think are rather better than when I wrote you last. William & his wife have been down to Cape Island. They returned home again last evening. I have not yet seen them. Mary Ann, the Dr. and all their children, all excepting Thomas, have gone to his father's at Newark. They expect to be gone about 2 weeks. They left here yesterday. We



shall be quite lonely until their return. We were verry glad to se Joseph. After they return home, your Mother and myself probable may take some short trips into the country. However, I cannot speak possitively about it on account of my cough. I feel a great Indisposition to go eny were. The summer will soon be gone. We shall soon have cool weather again and at present its quite comfortable here. Our days are rapidly hasting away. We shall soon se there end. May we all be enabled to spend them all in Wisdom's ways, looking unto Jesus, who is the way and the Life and the truth, and when our end cometh may we be found ready and enter into the Joy of our Lord, - that rest which he has prepared for all them that Love & obey him. Our Love to you, Hannah and all the children, and may the Lord Bless you is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>. 1848. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

- page 156. "Joseph": my brother was visiting in  
Lawrenceville, N.J. with his uncle Hamill.  
" " "to the City": living in 5<sup>th</sup> St above Poplar, in  
the Northern Liberties, people, at that time,  
felt that they were not "in the City".  
" " "to the store": on Market St.  
" " "Newark": Delaware.

Philada. Sept'r 12, 1848.

My dear Son

I received your Letter by Anna, in which you informed me the Trustees have accepted your resignation. I hope it will be for the best. I have not heard anything on the subject, but what I received from you. I expect the next meeting of the Trustees will decide the matter one way or the other. I feel verry anxious about you, and what prospects you have. I have had conversations with some who are Trustees, but its verry hard to come to any firm opinion how they will act. Some blame the Trustees, others the Dr. I would like to se you. Will you be here after the Session<sup>s</sup> is over? If not, let me know. Let me know soon. William feels some concern about his son Charles. I do not know what is his particular intention about him. If you do not intend to come to the City I would like to know it, and if you do he can write to you about his son and direct you what to do with him, either to bring him with you or to leave him at Faston. I am now in the store, and writing this in great haste. I hope you are all well and that the Lord will guide, direct and Prosper you in what course you may take. Through the Lord's goodness to us we are all in our usual health. The Dr. is recovering his health much faster than we had expected. He is attending to his Profession again. May the Lord bless you all is the Prayer of your Father.

W. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on the Letter of Sept. 12<sup>1</sup>, 1848. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 159. "the Dr.": President Junkin.

" " "Session": the two terms of the College were winter and summer, Vacations were in April and October.

" " "the Dr.": Dr. Handy.

Philada., Oct 'r 3, 1848.

My dear Son

Joseph is with us but is going to leave us to-morrow, for which we are all sorry. We would liked it verry much if he could have stayed longer, but he is verry anxious to se you all. As things have turned at Easton I hope it will be all for the best, I hope the Lord's blessing will be upon the Institution and will again prosper and have officers in the College who will act in unison with the Trustees. I have a great deal here which I cannot now mention, but as you say you hope to come to the City, if its agreeable to you so to do we shall be glad to se you. This morning I attended the meeting of Presbytery, and did not get home til near 3 o'clock. Joseph perhaps will tel you some things which I have spoken to him about. If you should not find it convenient to come to the City, I will Indeavour to give you all the Information I can. Upon the whole I think your Mother & myself are rather better in health then we have been for some time. The Dr 's health is still improving and is attending to his practice. Wm. & his family are in their usual health. You must accert this short letter as I feel much fatigued from the long setting of Presb'y to-day. May the Blessing of the Lord be open you all is the prayer of your father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Oct. 3<sup>d</sup> 1848. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 161. "Joseph": my brother. I think ~~that~~ at ~~that~~  
time, he was teaching in Laurensville  
High School. Sister Leabell<sup>a</sup> also was in  
Mrs Craig's Female Sem<sup>y</sup>, Laurensville.



Philada., October 24, 1848.

My dear Son

We received your Letter on Saturday, and felt thankfull that you arrived safe and found your Family all well. We are all in about the same state of health as when you left us. Upon the whole, I think my cold is getting better. I hope Col. McKeen is well again. I suppose Dr. Junkin/ will soon leave you for his new situation, and pray the Lord's Blessing will be upon your College. I have sent you the Penn'n of Saturday, yesterday and to-day from which you will see the Democratic party are rising up, and its generally believed there have been great frauds in Schuylkill Co. which will be investigated. I suppose the Election of 7th of November will be a verry animated one. I hope you will go and vote. How difficult it is to keep ones feelings right at such times as these. The Lord reigns, and I hope will take care of us, let the election go as it may. The Democratic party have had arrayed against them all the orginized Infidelity of the country, abolitionism and all other isms. I still hope Cass and Butler will be elected. Mr. Christman brought Joseph's west-coat pattern here on Saturday evening. He sais he took it to the stage office on Monday, and had expected they took it up the next morning, but on inquiry at the office he found it there. They would not take it; they wanted 50 Cents for taking it up, and as the money was not left they would not take it. We have it now in our care. We will do with it whatever way you may direct us. We are verry sorry that Joseph has been disappointed in his westcoat. Perhaps as the time is so near his having to be at Lawrenceville, he

had better come this way on his return to his station, and I think I can have it made for him satisfactory immediately. Yesterday, at the office of the B'd of Missions, Mr. Newkirk told me Mr. Greene had declined the call from the Central Church. The reasons for it he did not know. What a world of disappointment and what an excited state the whole world is in! How important it is to watch and Pray that we be kept from being carried away with the Spirit of this world. O that the Lord in mercy to us may deeply impress the light of Eternal things upon our minds and we be locking to and living by faith upon the Lord Jesus and that the Spirit might be shed abroad in our land and the whole world be full of the Glory of God, that we do our humble part. May the Lord Guide and direct us. Hoping you are all well, and may the Blessing of the Lord rest upon us all is the prayer of Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> 1848. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 163. "Abolitionism". My grandfather was bitter in his denunciation of Abolitionists. Democracy was almost a religion with him.

page 164. "M<sup>r</sup>. Newkirk": father of Rev D<sup>r</sup>. Matthew Newkirk.

" " "M<sup>r</sup>. Greene": I suppose Rev D<sup>r</sup>. W<sup>m</sup>. Henry Green, subsequently, Prof. in Princeton Theol. Sem<sup>y</sup>.

"W<sup>m</sup>. Christman"; father's cousin.

"Joseph": my brother.

Philada., Nov'r 13, 1848.

My dear Son

As this is Monday morning, and do not go to the City until afternoon, I have concluded to write to you. We heard from you by Joseph, and we were glad to see him and to hear from you. The excitement of the Election is over, and Genl. Taylor is elected President. I would have preferred Gel. Cass; but so it is, and I will be satisfied. The majority must rule. It may be for the best, I hope it may be. The Lord reigns, we are a sinfull nation. We may chastise us, but I hope in his Mercy. Hitherto his kind care and Providence has been upon us for our good, and I still hope it may continue. We are still the most favoured nation of Earth. Our land is loaded with the Bounty of his Providence. We have a super-abundance of grain of all kinds, enough to feed the famished multitudes of Europe for which may we be thankfull. I have not <sup>4</sup>heard anything about your College, since your Session opened. However, I suppose your number of students are few, but hope it will revive and again flourish. However it will be well for you to keep a good lookout for yourself and Pray the Lord will prosper and direct you. We are all in our usual health. I hope you are all well. Let me hear from you soon, and as much as you can about the prospects of the College, and if I can assist you with any suggestions I will do it. Our Love to you, Hannah and the children and were pleased to hear they were so much gratified with our profile. May the Lord bless you all and have us in his holy keeping.

Your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1848. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 166. "Session opened". Until I read these Letters, I did not know that my father had resigned his Professorship in 1848, or that the Trustees had accepted the resignation. I think there must have been a reconsideration, for, Dr. Junkin having left, my father was acting-President during 1848-49.

Philada . Jan'y 10, 1849.

My dear Son.

As it's some time since I wrote to you, and that we have heard from you, having come to the store this morning, I have determined to write you a short letter. Through the Blessing and Mercy of the Lord we were safely brought through the last year, and have now made some progress in the new year. Joseph made us a visit on New Year's day, and continued with us until Wednesday afternoon, when he again left us. Your Mother, myself and all the rest of us were very glad to see him. He is in very good health. Our old Friends Stuart & Brown are still alive. Mr. Stuart is very feeble, and so is Mr. Brown. I called on my old Friend Stuart last week, he was very glad to see me. He is very comfortable in spirit, but afflicted through the Infirmary of the body. He is looking for his change, waiting and looking for the Coming of the Lord. Yesterday I called to see Mr. Brown. I talked and Prayed with him. He is supported by the grace of our Lord. Mrs. Brown is in her usual health. Wm. and his family are all well. The Dr., Mary Ann and all the children are well this morning. Upon the whole I think your Mother is rather better in health. Mother sends her Love to you, Hannah and all the children, and says she hopes if nothing unforeseen occurs, to see them all this year. What an eventful year we passed through! This opens with loud calls. God is abroad in the earth. His rod is lifted up. May we and all consider and be wise, and seek his face and favour. Excuse this hasty letter. Let me hear from you, and may the Lord bless you all is the Prayer of your Father,



Notes on Letter of Jan'y 10<sup>th</sup> 1849. Phil<sup>a</sup>.  
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page 168. "Joseph": my brother.

" " "Stuart & Brown": do not remember.

Philada. Jan'y 24th, 1849.

My dear Son

We were verry glad to receive your last letter, and felt thankfull to the Lord for his goodness and Mercy to you and your family in restoring them to there usual health and in continuing to you your health and enabling you to attend the duties of College. I sincerely hope the Lord's Blessing will be upon your College. And now, through those Friends who have advanced money to relief it from the presing claims which were against it, there is every reason to believe it will again Prosper. I see, by a piece in the Presby'n of last week, the Trustees intend, before the close of the Session to appoint a President and have a full Faculty. Do you think of putting in your claim for the Presidency? I see no reason why you should not. You have friends in the Board I suppose, with whom you could mention your willingness to accept of the Presidency if you were elected. I would not show a great anxiety about, but I certainly would make some efforts for it. When Joseph was last here, he told me, in speaking of the College, that if the Trustees elected him Rector, I think is the title of the Primary department, he would accept it. He expressed for several reasons his preferance for the College to the situation he now has. Is the office vacant and have you or do you intend to make any effort to get it for him? You mention that Dr. Skinner is going to settle at Harmony in the Jerseys, and to have charge of the 2nd Church in Easton. I have heard some little of the movement in getting him there. From some conversation

I had yesterday with Dr. Wm. McDowell on the subject, perhaps he is looking to get the Presidency of your College. I should be verry of any such appointment. You are on the spot, and no doubt no more on the subject then I do. I have heard nothing about it, as I have talked with no persons excepting Wm. McDowell. I have nothing new to communicate. The gold dust of California is setting many people mad. What an excitement created for a little yellow dust, what a multitude is hasting to the Gold Country, and what numbers of them will lay there bones there, whilst Jesus and his salvation is not thought of! How does the Prince of Darkness blind the minds and harden the hearts of the children of men, lest the light of the Glorious Gospel should shine into there hearts and they should be converted and be saved through our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord keep us from the Love of the world and its uncertain riches. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content, and bless the Lord for his unspeakable mercy to us in calling us from darkness into the Glorious light of God's love to us in giving his only begotten Son to become a sacrifice for us and disposing and making us willing to come to Jesus that we may have life. Bless the Lord for all his mercies! Since I wrote you, your Mother has been quite unwell. She took cold and was confined to her bed for several days, but is now getting better. I am rather better than usual. William and his family are in there usual health. Mary Ann, the Dr. and their children are in their usual health, for which we desire to be thankfull. We have had some verry cold weather but to-day is verry pleasant. The winter

will soon be gone and Spring will be here, and we shall here the Notes of the little blue bird, and time's rapid flight will soon land us in the Eternal world. Yesterday I called to see our old Friend Andrew Brown. He is going verry fast and I think will not be long with us, and I hope it will be a blessed change for him. Yesterday I heard from my old Friend Stuart. He was rather better. When convenient I shall be glad to hear from you. And may the Lord's blessing be upon you and your family is the Prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM MASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Jan'y 24, 1849. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 170. "Rector"; my grandfather meant, "Tutor".  
" " "situation he now has": in Laurenceville.

Philada. February

1849

My dear Son.

Your Letter of the 7th Inst. received with great pleasure, and we felt thankfull to the Lord for his continued goodness to you and your family. The arrangement of the Trustees, those of them in your vicinity, for the future government of the College, I hope will be adopted by the Trustees at their next meeting, and hope the Lord's blessing will be upon you and the other members of the Faculty and upon the young men under your care. I wrote to Joseph about 2 weeks ago and have not yet received an answer. I shall now be looking for one every day. I should have been pleased to hear of Joseph being Elected to the <sup>Tutorship</sup> Pectorship in your College; but, as it is, no doubt it is all right, and will be found so after a while. The Lord will take care of Joseph as he has of us all, and will direct and place him in that situation which will be for his glory and Joseph's good. I suppose you have heard of the death of our old Friend Andrew Brown. He died on last friday afternoon about 3 o'clock, and his mortal body was consigned to the silent grave on Monday afternoon. His Body was taken to the church and Dr. Cuyler had quite a funeral sermon. They sent a carriage up to our house and your Mother and myself went to the funeral. Although we had a heavy snow storm and was verry cold, yet there was a considerable collection of people at the house, and others went to the church. There was a considerable number of the Elders of the other churches there. It was a solemn scene to us, another of our oldest Friends is gone. I was with him on Friday morning about 11 o'clock. He then could not



speak but was sensible. I prayed with them. He is now I hope, gone to his Blessed Saviour, to spend a long Eternity with him, where there is fullness of joy forever. Yesterday morning went to see my old friend James Stuart. He is in a verry peacefull frame of mind, as he said, waiting for the coming of the Lord. He has lived longer then was expected, but I think the time of his departure is verry near. He is now verry feeble, not able to raise himself nor to get out of bed without assistance. He is, I may say, the last of my early friends, as it is I have missed his counsel and advice much by living so far apart, but still I can go now and speak with him. I shall miss my old friend Brown, as I often called in to spend a few moments with him, as it was in my way going to or coming from the City, but those lips and tongue are closed in death. But Blessed be God for his grace. He is another witness to the Lord Jesus added to the innumerable multitude gone before. May the Lord strengthen and support you and yours and all of us to make it to be our meat and drink of our souls to do his holy will and glorify him in all our ways. Mr. Stuart sends his love to you and so does Mrs. Brown. You mention some of the numbers of the Biblical Repository as being gone. I have none of them. I believe you have all that I ever had. That's my impression. However, if I find any I will let you know, or if I can get them for you I will. I have nothing new to communicate. Your session is fast drawing to a close, and we shall expect to see you in the City. Through the goodness of the Lord to us we are all of us here, and so is William and his family in their usual health. About

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our coming to see you this coming season, if the Lord spares our  
life we shall be better able to determine after a while. An now  
may the Blessing of the Lord our God be upon you and yours and upon  
us all is the prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.

Philada., March 10, 1849.

My dear Son.

Your letter of the 6th Inst. did not come to hand until yesterday morning, and as I was not very well I did not go into the City and did not receive it until evening. Your Brother brought it up in the evening, and did not receive it until after 8 o'clock, when it was too late for me to write to you an answer. I am sorry to hear you have not found your mind made up on the subject. I did suppose from the Tenor of your last letter your mind was fully made up on the Subject. Its true I have and still feel a strong desire for your welfare. Your letter with your difficulty on the subject took me rather by surprise. My mind is rather unhinged on the subject. I received a letter from your Joseph a few days ago, in which he informed me he had received a Letter from you, in which you informed him of the arrangement the Trustees were thinking of, and making you the President. He said he had written to you advising you to accept of the appointment. The points of difficulty you speak of you understand better than I can. Suppose you were to accept the appointment of President and Professor of Languages. After a year's trial and you found it did not answer, couldn't you have it changed, and you be President and Professor of Mental & Moral Philosophy? Or, on the other point, suppose they appoint you now President & Prof. of Mental & Moral Philosophy and leave the responsibility of electing a suitable Prof. of Languages with the Trustees. To my mind, I think God's Providence is very clear in keeping you in the College, and so

directing and ordering things as to bring it into the state things are. Were I in your place I would find no difficulty on the subject,, but would feel my way plain and clear, and accept the appointment, and in the endeavour to discharge of my duty look to that Blessed God for his support and guidance. I hope the Lord will direct you to that course which will be for his glory and the good of the college. I have written this in the store in great haste. Your Mother, myself, Mary Ann, the Dr., your Brother William and all their children are in their usual health. May the Lord's blessing be with you and upon you and all your family is the Prayer of your Father,

Wm. MASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of March 10<sup>th</sup> 1849. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 178. "the subject": of my father <sup>of La Fayette College</sup> being President.

Philad ., March 1849,

My dear Son.

Your Letter came to hand Informing me that the Trustees had elected you President of the College and that you had concluded to accept of it. It was verry agreeable news to me, for more reasons then one. Many persons spoke to me on the subject, and all supposed you would or ought to be chosen the President. I generally Indeavour-  
ed to avoid giving any opinion about it, but still hoped the Lord would order it right, which I believe he has done. Now it would operate unfavourably against you, and it would have implied that the Trustees did not suppose you competent to fill the office, and rumors with her thousand slanderous words of suspicion would have been abroad; but it is now settled, and we are all glad of it. As to the Trustees not having raised your salary virtually, yet I believe they will fully meet all your desire in due time. From all I can learn, the 4,000 Dollars which Col. McKeen and others advanced to relieve the college, although they do not say publicly much about it yet, I believe it will appear to be a donation to the college in the end. There is a strong desire in many to see the college flourish again, and your appointment to the Presidency has given general satisfaction: No doubt it places you in a new situation, and brings you more prominently before the public; and it will now become necessary for you to go and vissit and make yourself known amongst the Clergy and people, you may shrink from it at first. I believe you will be made more usefull. No doubt in your vissit for a few days, the object of



which is for the College, the Trustees will be at the expense thereof, With your confidential friends in the Board you can always communicate and advise. I think the Lord has opened a new field for you to glorify him in, and I believe, in your Indevour to get on, he will strengthen support, and you will get much comfort from the Indevour to discharge your duty. The Lord has done great things for us in calling us from darkness to the light of his Glorious Gospel. Often does your Mother and myself look back to the day that we became man and wife, and often do we look at the state we were then in, being without God, our whole concern about the poor perishing world, but he had mercy on us when you was not more than two weeks old, and inclined our hearts to seek his face and favour: had we continued in our then state our dear children would have been brought up with no views beyond this world, to live after its pleasures and vanities; but Blessed be his Holy Name, for his great Mercy to us. He had mercy even for his own Holy name, and brought us from darkness to light and opened Eternity to our view, and we hope in some humble manner made us to feel that our chief end on Earth was to Glorify him, and when our course is finished be prepared to enjoy in his Divine presence his favour forever. Blessed be God for all his great goodness to us in bringing us to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and enabling us to cast ourselves upon him and to him alone look for salvation, and enabling us we hope to bring up our children in his fear and to lead them to the House of God to hear his Word. We don't feel as if we had done any thing as of ourselves to glory of, but we feel daily much to be humble for, and we desire alone to glory in the Love of God in Jesus Christ the Lord. We shall expect you in the

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City, when we can more freely talk on the subject. Your Mother was taken quite unwell on Friday last. She has been confined to her bed since. As we had a rainy day yesterday, and your Mother being confined to her bed, I did not get out. William was here in the morning before meeting time to see his Mother. He said Josephine was at the store on Friday and mentioned that she thought of sending Henry up to you to go to school. William told her he said there was no model school attached to the college. It's quite probable she will write to you on the subject. I hope you will promptly let her you will not take charge of him. For my part, I am determined to keep aloof from her, and have nothing to do in taking the charge of Henry. She may take care of him herself. I have enough to do with our infirmities of body and find it difficult enough to meet all my payments of interest and taxes now. I hope to see you. We shall be looking for you every day. William & his family are in their usual health. Mary Ann, the Dr' and their children are in their usual health. I hope you, Hannah and the children are well and pray the Lord's Blessing may be upon you all,

Your Father,

WM. HASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of March — 1849. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 183. "Josephine"; widow of my uncle Edward Nassau.

Her two children were a daughter, my beautiful cousin Mary K. Nassau (who never married), and a son Henry, who subsequently married a Miss Riter. He is dead, but she is still living.

My father and mother were so trusted by all the other Aunts & Uncles, that <sup>latter</sup> they were constantly sending their children, my cousins, for my mother to take care of. Aunt Josephine subsequently married M<sup>r</sup>. McCarmon.

" " "Model school": this was the <sup>La Fayette</sup> College Preparatory School.

" " "take care of herself": Aunt Josephine was fashionably disposed. The Handys, and Uncle William Nassau, and Aunt Josephine, were constantly drafting on grandfather for money. My father was the only one who did not ask, and, so he got little.

Philada. May 18, 1849.

My dear Son:

Your last Letter came to hand informing us that your Session had commenced. I hope the Lord's Blessing will be upon you and the College, and that it will again flourish. We were glad to hear from you ~~you~~ and that you are in your usual health, and that Joseph had got clear of his cold. We had hoped he would have found it convenient to have to the city on his way to Lawrenceville. However, we shall be looking for him through the summer, and will be glad to see him. For the last 3 weeks I have been more than usual unwell. I took cold, and my cough has been very severe day and night, almost without ceasing. It has been very wearisome to me, and I find myself much weaker. I have not gone out much. Since Friday last my cough has been getting better. The Dr. wants me to stay in the house for two weeks, and thinks it will be for my good. However, I have not yet concluded to do it, but I go as little out as I conveniently can. What a dying world we live in. It has been so in all generations. The days of this life are few and by reason of sin, they are full of sorrow. No doubt it is good for us to be afflicted for with all the sufferings we see in others and feel ourselves how difficult it is to get our minds fixed on Eternal things, and compare time with Eternity and to realize the Infinite difference there is between them, to be looking unto the Lord Jesus who is the Way, Life and the Truth, and who came to redeem us from sin and restore in us the Holy Image of God is the only sure and effectual remedy for us. By the Ledger of this morning I see the Cholera has

again appeared in New York, and we have great reason to fear it will be a great scourge, and we have in Philada. no good reason to suppose we shall escape its ravages. The Lord Inable us to make him our Refuge and put our whole trust in him. Through Mercy your Mother is tolerable well. Wm. and his family are all well. The Dr., Mary Ann, and their children are all in their usual health. I hope you, Hannah and all the children are well. I have written this short letter to you. In a few days I hope to be better when I will write to you again. As to our coming to Faston this summer I can say nothing about it at present. May the Lord's Blessing be upon you and your family and upon us all is the Prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM PASSAU, Sen'r.



Philada., June 12, 1849.

My dear Son:

Your Letter came to hand last Friday, and we felt verry glad to hear from you and thankfull that you are all in tolerable health with the expection of Mary Elizabeth, and sincerely hope and Pray she may soon be restored to health, for which we desire to be thankfull to the Lord for his Love and Mercy to us. Agreeable to your request, I procured for you from Mr. Troth one ounce of the Iodid of Iron, which he sais is pure. I got it at the wholesale price, paid him 60 Cts. for it. Yesterday afternoon, I went into the City to attend the meeting of the Board of Missions. I stopped at Mr. Henry McKeen's and found there Dr. Gray, his wife and Robert Steele. I took with me the bottle and 2 books which where left at the store. Some time ago by the person you wrote to your brother, and mentioned to him about receiving the books and one number of the Biblical Rep. which Mr. Brown gave me last week. Mr. Brown had loaned it to some person, who since Mr. Brown's death had returned Dr. Gray kindly took charge of them and said he would deliver them you when he got home. From what I can learn, I believe Dr. Gray's vissit to the city was in part about your College. I have had several conversations with Mr. Janeway since his return from the Assembly. He sais, from the opposition which was made against the petition, was such that the Assembly could not act in any other way than they did. He further sais, I think you were told so, when you was in the



City. The Synod has a right and full Power to take the College under their care. He sais he conversed with the Committee, to whom the subject was committed, and it was there opion the Synod had full power to do so. I went early this morning to the City. On my return home, I stopt at Mr. Janeway's, and again had some further conversation with Dr. Gray. Drs. Gray & Steele were both at the meeting of the Board yesterday afternoon. After the Board adj'd, they conversed on the subject. Mr. Janeway told me this mornin that Drs. Alexander & Miller are both favourable to the measure and agree in the opinion of the power of the Synod to act on the subject. So you se, and I hope it will yet be accomplished, the Lord reigns. He can make the wrath of man to Praise him, and the Remainder he can restrain. I Pray that the Lord may support, guide and direct you, and that his Blessing will be opn your College and the young men in it cause you to increase in numbers. I was pleased to hear of your progress at Feigelsville, and hope they will soon have a house to worship in, and that the word will be attended with the Power of the Spirit, and many souls be changed and brought of nature's darkness into the life and light of the Gospel. Our City is verry dull at Present. The alarm of Cholere has frightened many. We have a shure refuge to look to. Jesus is a hiding place from the Ills and Storms of this life. The Psalmist knew it, no doubt from his own experience. He found, as all the Lord's people have in all ages have, that he that dwelleth in the Secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty, or as the Apostle sais Looking unto Jesus who is the author until he becomes the finisher of our Faith. What a

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priviledge, what Love and Mercy to us the vile sinfull children of men. Your Mother unites with me in Love to your, Hannah and all th Children. We shall feel it our duty to remain in the City, if we are spared, until we pass through the present alarm of Cholerea. May the Lord bless you all in the Prayer of your Father,

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.

P. S. I mention the price of the Iodide. I hope you will not suppose you are to pay me what I paid for it.

Notes on Letter of June 12<sup>1</sup> 1849. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 188, "Mary Elizabeth": my sister.

" " "Mr. Froth": do not know him.

" " "Robert Steele". Rev. Dr. Steele, of Abington, Pa.

" " "Dr. Gray". Rev. Dr. Gray, of Easton.

" 189, "Dr. Alexander & Miller", Professors in the  
Princeton Theol. Seminary.

" " "Reizelsville"; site of the Durham church.

Philada., June 22, 1849.

My dear Son:

Thinking perhaps as the cholera is now in the midst of us, it would be pleasing and gratifying to hear from us. Through the Lord's Mercy and Blessing we are this morning in our usual health. You will see by the papers there was reported to the Health officers yesterday 10 cases of Cholera, 4 of which were fatal. I hope the Lord in mercy will remember our City and not suffer the Pestilence to sweep away its thousands. When we consider the abounding of Iniquity we may verily justly fear, but still hope in his mercy. He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and pray the spirit may be shed abroad in our City, country and the whole world. Next week, by order of the Genl. Assembly, a day of fasting will be kept. The Lord grant us a right spirit, to humble ourselves before him, seek his face and favour. I suppose you have seen in the papers the Death of Jacob David. You may have seen him in the store in Market Street. He was a member of our Congregation, he was suddenly taken away after a few days illness. You no doubt have heard me speak of a Quaker Friend with whom I had become acquainted by the name of David. He was a spiritually minded man and loved to talk of the Saviour and his great and free salvation. He also is dead, and no doubt you have heard of the death of Capt. Kay. He died after a few hours illness; and last week I heard of the Death of Timothy Caldwell, who emigrated to the State of Missouri, and this week we have the news of the death of the late President Polk. It has been so and no doubt will continue til time ends.

This day is the Birthday of your Mother and myself, she is 67 and I am 68 years old to-day. When I look back to the days of my youth it seems a good while, but when contrasted with that Eternal state to which we are hasting it is nothing, and yet our Eternal happiness depends upon this short and uncertain life. Thanks be to the Lord for his unbounded goodness and mercy shown us. Your Mother unites with me in Love to you, Hannah and all the children. Let me hear from you, and may the Lord's Blessing rest upon you and all of us is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of June 22<sup>d</sup>, 1849. Phil<sup>9</sup>

Page 192. "Capt. Kay": a relative, I think, of Aunt Josephine.

" " "Timothy Caldwell": do not know him.



Philada., July 1, 1849.

My dear Son.

This is the Lord's day, and as I am compelled to remain at home, I have commenced to write to you. Your Mother has been complaining for several days, with pains in her stomach and Bowells. Yesterday afternoon she became very sick, considerable operation from her Stomach & Bowells. She was a good deal alarmed at first, thinking it was the Cholera. The Dr. applied the necessary Medicines. Towards midnight she got nearly relieved from the sickness and pain in the bowells. The Dr. told her he did not think she was getting the Cholera, but rather there was considerable appearance of Dysentery, considerable blood in her stools. This morning she is rather easier and is taking medicine, and hope the Lord will give his blessing and cause the means we are using to have there desired effect and she soon be restored to her wanted measure of health. The Pestilence is on the increase here in our City. How far and to what extent the Lord will permit it to go is only known to him. There is a great deal of sickness here at present, attacks on the stomach and bowells. The heat has been very great. However, as yet by timely use of Medicine, the disease yields. The Dr. is kept very busy almost day and night. He has had a number of very severe cases, yet did not call them Cholera; but two cases he has reported to the Board of Health, one on Wednesday last, who was past helping when he was called to visit her. She died that night. Yesterday morning, about 1 o'clock, he was called to visit a woman nearly opposite to us, who had a very violent attack, had been unwell for 2 or

3 days with her bowells, but Doctoring herself. She was in a verry critical condition. We stayed with her until she got relieved, last evening she was doing well. I have not heard from her this morning. When I look round at the thoughtless multitudes, and perticularly the children, my heart feels sad. We are a wicked People. God has favoured our country more then any nation on Earth then we know of. He has caused the Earth abundently to yield its increase, and upon the whole, we w<sup>ere</sup> in a Prosperous condition. Every one that would work could get it; but how have we permitted all the Blessings we have injoyed to pass away without thankfullness. I thought last year, from the Spirit of the Politicians, I mean the Whig Party, the Per- version and Lying and abuse of the President and our Government, rep- resenting the Country as going to distruction, and every thing going to ruin, I often thought <sup>if</sup> Lying and Misrepresentation would to a certain degree to many become realities, which has and is now coming to pass. My only hope is in the Mercy of God. I hope there are many in our country who to a certain extent have some of the same Spirit of Humiliation that the Prophet David had, when he went to the Throne of Mercy and confessed his sins and the sins of Israel to the Lord.

Thursday morning, July 12. You see, I commenced this Letter last Sabbath week. I intended to have finished it the next day, as I had hoped your Mother would be well again by that time or nearly so, but it has not been so. She has had a verry violert attack of Dysen- tery. Now her disease has changed, but she is verry weak. To-day she is not so well as she was yesterday. However we hope she will re-

cover. I have delayed writing to you in hopes I could tel you she was about again. The Dr. has just left the room . She is now easy, and through the Lord's Blessing, I hope she will be up again in a few days. I have been with her nearly all the time. You know, for years, I have been afflicted with looseness in my bowells during the hot weather. I have had a great deal of it for the last month; from that cause and Mother's Illness I don't go out. We have a sickly time of it in our City. The report of the Board of Health yesterday shows a considerable increase. The Dr. is kept buisy day and night. He has had only 4 or 5 cases of Cholera. The genl. complaint is Cholera<sup>formis</sup> Morbis & Dysentery. M. & his Family are in their usual health, and so is our family here. Every body seems to be more or less afflicted the stomach and bowells. Mary Ann has just come into the room and wishes me to mention she has got Isabela's Letter this morning. She will answer it in a day or two. We are in the Lord's hands, and Blessed be his Holy Name, whilst we feel in some humble measure our sinfullness, our Hope is in him. He has kept our hearts & minds from being disquieted. He reigns and is gracious and mercifull. I will answer your Letter in a few days. Our Love to you all and may the Lord's blessing rest upon you, your Family and all of us is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. KASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on the Letter of July 1<sup>st</sup> 1849. Phil<sup>9</sup>.

page 196. "the Whig Party". My grandfather, an  
intense Democrat, seems to look on the  
cholera, as God's punishment of the Whigs.!!  
" " "Isabella's letter": my sister.

Philada., August 2, 1849.

My dear Son

In my last letter I informed you of the Illness of your Mother. I am happy in informing you, through the Lord's goodness and Mercy to us, she has so far recovered her health as to be able to come down stairs and take her Meals with us at the table. She had a verry violent attack of the Dysentery, and for several days the Dr. thought she could not recover. We have again to record the Lord's goodness to us. As I informed you in my last letter, for the last 2 months, I have been verry much afflicted in my bowells, in consequence of which I have not gone out much. For some years I have found my health began to get better towards the close of August, and hope it may be so again this season. However, I am not troubled about it. The Lord knows best what is good for us and will do all things right. We have had an unusual sickly time of it in our City, although he has in Mercy stayed the Cholera and not suffered it to carry off its thousands, yet I never knew a season when there was so much violent disease of the bowells. The Dysentery has and is yet, but from appearances, I think the general health of our City is improving. We all here, as well as your brother William's family, are all tolerably well. For 3 or 4 weeks the calls for the Dr. were incessant. It often made my heart sad to see the little boys come for the Dr. to their Fathers, Mothers & Brothers & Sisters. I sincerely hope and pray the Flood which is upon us in our City and country will be sanctified and in the end be a blessing. From the immense Emigration to our country, particularly Ireland and Germany, we have reason to fear that



too many of them fear not God, and coming into a country where there is perfect freedom, every one doing as he thinks proper, we are in danger of imbibing their opinions about the Sabbath, to many of them as it has been growing amongst us to make the Sabbath a day of Pleasure by Steam Boats and Rail Roads. So I do hope it will be for our good in the end. I suppose you see, in the Presbyterian, the Death of Mr. Sewel. He died in the midst of his Usefulness, the church has lost his Labour, but no doubt it was his gain. The Lord can and will raise up others to take his place. He does not do all his work by one Generation, for O how few are the years which are actively devoted to his cause in the world, 20, 30, 40, and some few 50 or 60 years of active life, but what is that to us individually. The improvement of time is every thing in this short and uncertain life. We are to consider, enter into the Straight gate, receive the Lord Jesus as our whole Saviour, and obey him, copying after his example, treading in his foot-steps. I hope William has again recovered from his Illness, and hope you are all well. I see, by the morning papers, that the Cholera has made its appearance at the Durham works. Is that the place you go to supply with preaching? There is no use in being much afraid and alarmed about it. We are in the Lord's hands. Let us put our trust in him. Here the Cholera is not considered contagious. Almost every one will assist their neighbour, just as they do in any other sickness. Our next door Neighbour, Mr. Andrews lost his youngest son, Henry, a lad between 8 & 9 years old. He was taken ill on Friday week with Dysentery. Dr. Darragh is their Physician, and on Monday evening, very unexpected about 6 o'clock sank



into a collapse state, and Died before 8 o'clock. His Parents are members of Dr. Janeway's church. I talked with him at his bedside Saturday evening. I did not think he was going to die so soon. He was a thoughtful Praying boy, but no doubt he has gone to be with the Lord forever. His Mother has been very much affected by his death. In your last letter, you mentioned the difficulty had in your mind about accepting the Presidency. I have strove to think about it in some measure, but your Mother's sickness and the constant operation of my bowels having prevented me from going out, I do not feel at Present able to give much advice on the subject. If we were with you I could then talk, and we might be better qualified to advise on the subject. Dr. Gray has always manifested a warm friendly feeling for you. I some times take advice with Mr. Janeway, but as yet I have not opened the subject to him. My Prayer to the Lord is that he will guide and direct you. Let me hear from you. Our Love to you, Hannah and all the Children, and may the Lord bless you all is the Prayer of your Father,

W. HASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Aug. 2<sup>d</sup>, 1849, Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 200. "M<sup>r</sup>. Sewel": do not know him.

" " "William": my brother.

"Andrews": do not know him.

Philada., August 7, 1849.

My dear Son.

Your favour of the 1th Inst. came to hand yesterday, and we felt glad to hear from you, and hope William & Hannah will soon be entirely well. As you mentioned Wm.'s Disease had put on the Intermitent form, I concluded to write to you on the subject, knowing how long we may be subject to it. You remember some years ago how we were afflicted with it, constantly under the Dr.'s hand. Thinking perhaps you had forgot the Remedy we used and got free of it. It is 1 oz. best Red bark, 1 Oz. Cream of Tartar, 1 1/2 Oz. ground Cloves mixed together, and, when free from chill & fever, take 3 or 4 tea spoonsfull for 3 or 4 days, and then reduce to quantity from 1 to 2 spoonsfull a day 3 or 4 days more, and if the Fever has left you, quit taking any more. I hope the Lord is going to restore our City to health again. The air seems to have undergone a change. The general health of the City is improving, and the reports from the Board of health are very favourable, in almost every case of Cholera which I have heard of, which has proved fatal, the person had been labouring under the bowell complaint, and the eating corn, cherries, hortelberry, peas, cucumber, cabbage, green apples and other green fruits has suddenly brought on the Cholera, and the Patient has quickly passed into the Colapst state. I have taken some pains to get the perticulars of many that have died, and in every instance I have found they had been labouring for 2, 3 & 4 days with Dihorea, and then inoulged in eating. Some cases I have heard of, in less then an hour after eating they have been ciolently attacked with Cramps, and soon got into the Colapst state. If you should be vissited, which I hope the Lord in mercy will prevent, but if you should I would advise you perticularly to

watch the bowells and refrain from eating fruit. We have been living  
verry prudently for the last 2 months. The Dr. has bought no berries  
for his family. We have at our meals in in the Coffee and Tea  
a little broiled ham. Ham, Beef, Lamb & Mutton with the last 2  
weeks at Dinner, Potatoes moderately, and few stewed Tomatoes with  
Bread and butter, no Deserts, make up our every day meals. For my  
own part, I have so long from necessity been compelled to be carefull  
in eating it is no restraint to me. I ought to have added rice,  
which is cooked every day. Joseph has not yet made his appearance  
I will keep the letter you sent for him a few days, and if he does  
not come I will destroy it as you have directed. Thanks be to Lord  
we are still preserved. I feel better this morning then I have  
some time. I went as far as William's this morning. William had gone  
to the store. His wife was in bed, affected in her stomach & bowells.  
William has been a good deal affected for the last week or two. O  
how many and great have been the mercys of the Lord to us. Goodness  
and Mercy from the Lord hath followed us all the days of our life,  
and after this life we hope to be with him forever. The Dr., Mary  
Ann, and the children are all well as usual. I hope you, Hannah and  
the children are all well. An pray the Lord's Blessing may be upon you  
and yours and guide and direct you in all your ways. I hope Dr.  
Gray may be restored to good health. I have written this in haste.  
The Lord's blessing be with you all.

Your Father,

P. S. As the Letter Carrier now stops here with the  
Letters for the Dr. & Mary Ann, you may in future when you write to

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me direct your Letters here. Our number of the house is 408.

Notes on Letter of Aug, 7<sup>th</sup>, 1849. Phil<sup>r</sup>.

page 203. "William and Hannah": my brother and sister.

William's sickness was "chills and fever".

" " "Red bark &c". That was Peruvian bark,  
the form in which quinine was then given.  
I remember my brother drinking the thick  
red bitter mixture from a bowl.

" " "No 488": 5' st, above Poplar. I do not  
suppose that that would be the number to-day.

" 204, "William"; father's brother



Part Third.

Jan. 30' 1850  
to  
Oct. 1' 1850

Philada., Jan'y 20, 1850

My dear Son,

We were verry much gratified with Joseph's vissit, but sorry for his short stay with us. By him I received your Letter. I received a Letter from him a few days back since he went to Princeton. He was well then. Time's rapid flight will soon carry us through the winter. We shall soon have spring here. Last week I took cold, which Increased my cough verry much and has kept me at home for the last 3 or 4 days. I am now getting better of it. Last night I rested verry well, and was not troubled with the coughing. This is the morning of the Lord's day. It's calm and still, a Beutifull morning indeed. I shall not be able to go to church to-day, on account of my cough. I desire, as I know its a great Priviledge, to go to the House of God, but as my Informity of Body prevents me, I hope to spend the day in his fear, and to enjoy the light of his Countenance. His favour is life and his loving kindness is better than all things beside. I expect to spend the day in contemplating and looking at the Lord Jesus as the Man of Sorrows and acquainted with Grief, Bruised for our Iniquities and shedding his own blood and Dying to make an atonement for our sins, and as now exalted in the Heavens as the Great Mediator, and an High Priest ever to live to make intercession for us. In my letter to you, I mentioned that Mr. Wadsworth had preached to our congregation, verry much to there satisfaction. So much so, that the Session ordered a Congregational meeting to be called, which was to have taken place last Monday, and it was thought every things was fair, and if he was elected he would

come and be an associate Pastor with Dr. Cuyler. However, as it came out, before the day appointed for our congregation to meet, he had come to Philada. upon the special Invitation of a number of men in the Central church and others, as the House in which Dr. Skinner used to preach was to be sold, and to know of him, if they purchased it, if he would become their Pastor, and, as far as I have been enabled to learn, he agreed to do the same. The church was sold and they have purchased it and made application to Presbytery to be organized into a Congregation Old School. Our People are looking out for some other minister. I hope the Lord will direct and send one who will be a Blessing, and who will add to Comfort and Peace of Dr. Cuyler. I cannot approve of the taste and disposition of the young people towards their aged Pastor. I think it must be verry much against the Divine will and offensive in his sight. This is a changing world, we must not expect much from it. The more we are loosed from it the Better. God alone is our all sufficient good. David's advice and experience is best. He says My Soul wait thou only on him, for from him cometh our Salvation. Man chaineth, but God is the unchangeable God. He never changes. Jesus having his own which were in the world he loved them unto the end. I hope you are getting along in your new church, and hope the Lord will give his Blessing to it and your College. William & his family, as far as I know, are in their usual health. Your Mother, I about starting to go to meeting, she is going to Mr. Janeway's. I hope you are all well. Shall be glad to hear from you, and more so to see you in the spring, when we shall be able to speak more advisedly about our going to Easton.

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May the Lord's blessing rest upon you and yours and upon us all.

I remain,

Your Father,

Wm. PASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Jan'y 20<sup>th</sup>, 1850, Phil<sup>a</sup>,

page 207. "Joseph": my brother at Princeton Sem'y.

" " "M<sup>r</sup> Wallsworthy". Rev. Charles Wadsworth, All  
visitors to Phil<sup>a</sup> went to hear him in the <sup>(former)</sup> Arch  
st church.

Philada., May 14, 1850.

My dear Son.

Your Letter of the 11th Inst. came to hand last evening. We are all sorry to hear that Isabela and Mary Elizabeth are not coming to the City this time. Joseph came here this afternoon. We were all glad to see him. Through the Lord's goodness to us we are all in about our usual health, and glad to hear that you are all well. I hope your prospects for your College are encouraging. I shall be pleased to hear from you about it when its convenient. We still feel disposed to come to Easton and spend a short time with you. Since I last wrote to you, we have had considerable changes in our congregation. You have, I suppose, seen by the Presbyterian, that four of our Elders have resigned, and also that Dr. Cuyler has resigned and accepted ~~by~~ the Congregation and approved by Presbytery. His Pastoral office ceases on the 1st of June. There is now but three Elders, Messrs. Stille, Dulty and myself. There is now unanimity in the church and congregation, and I sincerely hope the Lord will send another Pastor and one that will be a Blessing to the Congregation. I sincerely hope the church will not be left long vacant. The sooner a Pastor is settled the better. What a changing world we live in. I feel verry sorry for Dr. Cuyler. I am not pleased with the young People in our day, - To manifest such disapprobation to the aged. It's true, Dr. Cuyler is slow in his preaching, but then he Preaches the Truth as it is in the Lord Jesus, and we ought to hear for Eternity, and if our hearts are right with the Lord, the words by his servants are his, and my mind has long been made up on the subject, that it is



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not the man but God the Spirit which makes the word profitable to us, for Paul might plant, Apolos water, but God must give the Increase. We sincerely hope we shall not be disappointed it is summer from coming to Easton. Next month is the time I have thought of coming. However, we shall let you know in due time. This will be handed you by Joseph. May the Lord's Blessing be upon you all is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAUM Senior.

Notes on Letter of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1850, Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 211. "Isabella and Mary Elizabeth"; my sisters.

" " "Joseph"; my brother.

Philada., June 6, 1850

My dear Son.

Yesterday morning your Mother and myself went to Morris-town and returned home again in the evening. We found Robert and Mrs. Howf there. We found Mrs. Hamill quite ill, but sensible. She was glad to see me and your Mother. To me it appears verry doubtful if she ever gets about again. However, we don't know what a day may bring forth. She is supported in mind, waiting expecting every day to be released from the body, resting on the Lord Jesus. Her left side seems to be compleately Paralysed. She is entirely helpless, but we helped in every change of Position she makes in bed. Elizabeth requested me to write to Hannah for her, and let you know how their mother is. I told her I would. Accordingly I have writte you these few lines. She wishes me to say, if any more unfavourable symptoms occur with their Mother, she will inform you of it immediately. Samuel & Robert went on Monday evening. Sam'l returned to the City on Tuesday, as he had to be home. Robert will leave there to-morrow. He says it will be necessary for him to be at his church next Sabbath. Mrs. Howf will also leave there to-morrow or next day to be at her own home. I had considerable conversation with Mrs. Hamill, and Prayed with them. She expressed a great deal of Satisfaction, and I believe is happy in anticipation of her release from the Body to be present with the Lord, and enter upon that Rest which Jesus is gone to prepare for all them who have fled to him for refuge. We here are all in our usual measure of health and hope you are all the same. May the Blessing of the Lord rest upon you and us all is the Prayer of your father,

Notes on Letter of June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1850. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 214. "Robert": my mother's brother

" " "Mrs How": my mother's sister, wife of  
Rev. Dr. James C. How, of St Georges, Del.

" " "Mrs Hamill": my mother's mother.

" " "Elizabeth": mother's sister, Mrs Davis, who  
was living in Norristown at the old home.

" " "Hannah": my mother.

" " "Samuel & Robert": my mother's brothers.

" " "his church": in Center C<sup>y</sup>. Pa.

Phil da., July 4th, 1850.

My dear Son.

We had hoped that by this time we should have been with you at Easton, but as yet I have not got my concerns so arranged that I can leave home, and not be troubled about money matters. However, I think by the beginning of next week I shall, so that we have a strong hope we shall see you before the week is ended. I hope you are all well. We are all in our usual health except your Mother. Yesterday, she was considerably affected in her bowels. The Dr. ordered for her 1st evening some medicine which I hope will remove her complaint, and think she will be in her usual health again in a day or two. Last Monday, our Congregation met and unanimously elected a young man to be their Pastor by the name of Shields. He is now on Long Island, and I believe there is no doubt he will accept the call. I have written this brief Letter to you as we hope to see you in a few days. I have many things to talk about. Tell Edward, his Father, Mother and Brothers are well. Our Love to you, Hannah and all the children. May the Lord bless you and have us all in his holy keeping is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. HASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1850. Phil 9.

page 216. "Shields": subsequently the Rev Dr. Shields;  
later a Prof. in Princeton University.

" " "Edward": my cousin, second son of  
uncle William and Aunt Charlotte. He was  
taking his turn at being cared for by  
my mother.



Philada., July 10, 1850.

My dear Son.

I wrote you last mentioning that your Mother was not well, having had an attack in her bowells, and of her being fearfull of again having the Dysentery. Since I wrote she has been considerably affected, but nothing as yet like the Dysentery. She is under treatment in the Dr.'s hands, he sais she is doing well, her symptoms are favourable, and I sincerely hope she will have her usual health again in a few days. She is now sitting up in our room, so we shall not be able to come this week, but shall embrace the first opportunity. Yesterday was a sad day to us here in Philada. We had an awfull fire, the worst one I suppose we ever here ~~were~~ visited with. You will see an acct. of it in the papers. At one time, it looked awfully alarming. Consternation looked out of the eyes of every one. the streets thronged with People watching its progress. The wind was strong from the S. E., but in the evening about sunset it became calm, and its progress westward was stopt. My heart sickend at the thought of it. Many have lost their lives and wounded. Many have lost there all. Sorrow and distress fills the hearts of many this morning. What poor creatures we are. What a world of sorrow we live in. Besides the calamity of Fire, we had the death of the President, Genl. Taylor. Truly the Lord's judgments are abroad. Blessed be God we have a Place of Refuge to flee to amidst the storms of this life, the Lord Jesus. O that our whole nation could bow and humble themselves under the Mighty hand of God. 218 Our Friend, Henry Christman, is among the sufferers. The house he formerly lived in the

S. E. Corner of Second & Vine Streets is partly destroyed. His new house 2 or 4 doors from the corner is entirely burnt out, as also is Samuel Gilbert, north of Vine Street near Callowhill Street. William, his wife and children are well. Mary Ann, the Dr. and their children are well, and I hope you are all well. My nervous system is down. Its with difficulty I could write to you. I hope we shall see you in a few days. May the Lord's Blessing be with us all .

Your Father

WM. HASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of July 10<sup>th</sup> 1850. Phil<sup>9</sup>

page 218. "Henry Christman": a relative of grandmother  
Nassau's sister, father's Aunt Christman.

"Samuel Gilbert": do not know him.

Philada., July 21, 1850.

My dear Son.

Your letter came to hand yesterday. It took me rather by surprise. We have been greatly disappointed in not being with you before this, but so it is. Your Mother has been verry ill, but is now about the house again. Nothing but weakness affects her, but is in a fair way of having her usual health again. Neither of us could stand the ride to Easton at Present, in our weak state of health, and from the subjects of your letter I regret verry much that we were not able to come to you, as we fully expected to do the last of June. The causes which prevented us were beyond our control. We must hope for the best. I wish I was with you now. On the subject of your Presidency, I have told you before, I am satisfied there is too much imposed on you. However, I have not had time to look at the subject of your resigning. I would advise you not to do it yet, but keep it in your hands. The other subject you mention about Rev. Mr. Peebles' School. Your Mother and myself have determined to go to-morrow afternoon to Lawrenceville and see Samuel on the subject and consult with him & Hugh. By that time I shall have time to look a little at the whole subject. You may look to hear from me again in a day or two. I hope and Pray the Lord will guide and Direct in the right way. I hope you are all well. And may the Lord's Blessing be upon us all,

Your Father,

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W. NASSAU, Sen'r.

P. S. Tell Edward his father, Mother, with their Children started to Lewistown in the Steam Boat last Monday morning. I have not heard from them.

Notes on Letter of July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1850. Phil?

page 221. "Rev. W. Peabody": The Misses Craig, in 1849, had sold the Lawrenceville Female Sem'y to Mr. Peabody, and he, after one year's possession, was offering it for sale.

" " "Samuel" & "Hugh": my uncles Hamill, of the Lawrenceville High School.

" " "Edward": my cousin Edward Nassau.

Philada., July 25, 1850.

My dear Son.

In my last letter to you I said your Mother and myself intended on Monday to go to Lawrenceville, which we did. I had several conversations with Samuel & Hugh. We looked at the whole subject. They both are verry anxious for you to get the situation. I told them my all I could about my means as to money. If you finally determine to resign at Easton, I think the arrangement can be made about the purchase money. As we went up on the steamboat, I met with Dr. Vanranseleer on board the Boat. I had some little conversation with him. We mentioned he had received a Letter from you, - the one you mentioned you had wrote to his & Dr. Chester. I said nothing at that time. This morning, on our return home, I met with him again on board the Boat. I had some further conversation with him. The subject of your letter came up again, when he observed you said in your letter to them, you had the offer of a Scarding School which you thought would suit you and be an advantage to you and your family. He said you had not mentioned where the situation was. As our conversation was confidential, I told him it was Mr. Pepples at Lawrenceville, he was quite surprised that Mr. Pepples wanted to leave it. He thought it was a first rate situation, one that would just suit you, and one where you could do much good whilst you bettered your own condition, and further observed the Education Board could not do more then the 600 dollars pr. ann. to College and they need not expect more then that sum. He said Dr. Chester would soon write you an answer to your letter. He, I suppose, will try to induce



you to remain were you are. I would not be influenced by any such advice. Early yesterday morning, Mr. Peebles had heard the evening before that I was at Lawrenceville, he stopt at the house, when soon the subject of his leaving there came up. He asked me if I had lately heard from you. I told him I had received a letter from you on Saturday. We had some conversation on the subject, and I agreed to call on him by 11 o'clock, when he would be through with his recitations. Accordingly, about that time, Samuel went with me, when we had a conversation on the whole subject matter, and the conclusion that Samuel & I came was this. I should write you immediately to come down first to Lawrenceville and then to the City. I suppose the whole matter could be agreed on 3 days, one day to come, 2 to make the arrangement, 3 day return home again, or furtherest it would not take more then four days. Mr. Peebles is anxious to hear definitely from you. I told him I would write to-day. You would not get my letter before Friday evening, of course you could not come on Saturday, but Samuel & I thought you could on Monday. We ask you to come on Monday. I think it's a good opening, and there is no time to loose, and it's time you should try to get a situation where you will not have so much labour and care, and <sup>4</sup>were you can better your condition and be equally as usefull as you are at the College. You must act for yourself and Family, and I would not be diverted from the object, without greater reasons that I know of. This is private. Some ago I met Mrs. McKeen in Henry McKeen's store here in the City. The subject of your Family came in cinversation. She talked I thought rather strange. She said the Trustees were tired of putting

there hands in there pockets and out, to be satisfied with the 600 dollars. The did not know where you could get a better situation. They could easily get a President, - quite a number had intimated for its office. I have felt every since not verry comfortable about it.) I have now verry briefly given you my views. I hope you will come down on Monday. Samuel said he supposed Joseph could attend in your place for the time. The object of your leaving home of course you will keep to yourself. We shall be looking for you. Samuel will expect uoi on Monday. Samuel and his wife came to us to the City this morning. She returns home again this afternoon. He is going to Norristown to see his Mother. Will return to the City and go home to-morrow afternoon. May the Lord guide & direct you and Bless us all in the Prayer of Father,

WM. HASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of July 25, 1850. Phil?

- page 223. "steamboat": on the Delaware to Jacomy.  
" " "Dr. Vandruselee": Rev. Dr. Cortland Van-  
Rensselaer, of the Presb. Board of Education.  
" " "Dr. Chester": Rev. Dr. Chester, also of the  
Bd. of Education.  
" 224. "Samuel": uncle Samuel Hamill,  
" " "Mrs M'Keen"; of Easton, wife of a trustee <sup>of Lafayette College</sup>!

Philada., Aug. 7, 1850.

My dear Son.

Your Letter came duly to hand and we were all glad to hear that you had made up your minds to accept Mr. Peebles' offer to dispose of the Seminary at Lawrenceville, and that you had given him notice that you had agreed to his terms to dispose of the same. I suppose you have had an answer from him by this time. I take it for certain he will accede. Now there is no time to be lost. The sooner you make it known to the Parents of the young Ladies the better. I think it would be well if Mr. Peebles would unite in some way in the circulars you issue, for him to state the reason of his disposing of the Seminary, the state of his wife's health that he could not continue it on that account, and he also can recommend you to his friends. I had some conversation with Mr. Steever on the subject last Monday. He thinks well of it, and if you thought proper you might use his name amongst the names you refer to. His daughter was with Miss Craig. His name is Henry D. Steever, lives near Poplar Street in fifth. Let me hear from you soon. I want to know for certain on the subject. When you was here, I asked you to make some inquiry at the Flour Mills if they had any of what is called screenings, such as we feed the Pigeons with. Will you make some inquiry and how they sell it pr. Bushell?<sup>?</sup> We are all in about our usual health, and hope you are all well. Our Prayer is the Lord would guide and order all things for you and bless us all.

Your Father,

P. S. Mr Steever had some hand in advising and managing for Miss Craig when she sold to Mr. Peebles. I asked him <sup>if</sup> the property was insured. He think it is. I insured for three thousand dollars. Its sais, he thinks, a Perpetual Insurance. It should go with the Property, without any additional charge. I suppose Samuel will attend to it. If you have not allready mentioned it to him, it should be done without any loss of time.

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Notes on Letter of Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>. 1850. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 227. "Steener". This <sup>Philadelphia</sup> family had children at  
both the High School, and at the Female Sem<sup>y</sup>.  
" " "pigeons": grandfather raised squabs for food.



Philada., August 25, 1850.

My dear Son.

Your Letter dated 19th Inst. came to hand, and we are allways glad to hear from you. The change you are about making is thought well of by all that I have spoken to on the subject. I hope the Lord's Blessing will be with you. Mr. Janeway's Family are in the Country. Last night he was with us. Will stay with us until to-morrow. This morning he asked me if I had heard that they have made a Doctor of you. I told him I had not. He said Washington College have made a D. D. of you. Be it so, it will neither make one hair white nor black. I wish by the first oppertunity you would send me 5 or 6 of your circulars, as I can dispose of them perhaps to your advantage. You mention that, after your Commencement, you will make preparations to move. I suppose the best way will be to agree with Canal Captain to take your goods and no others. You can, I suppose, take your goods to Trenton, or go down to Bristol and enter the Paritan Canal. I think Samuel told me there was a landing and store-house within 1/2 miles of Lawrenceville. No doubt you can get all the Information on the subject better at Easton then I can give you. I would make a contract with the Capt. for a definite sum, to deliver them at the place you determine on. As we shall hear from you soon again I will conchle. We are all in our usual health, and hope you are the same. May the Lord's blessing be with us all is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. YASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> 1850. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 230. "a doctor": my father's D.D. from Washington  
and Jefferson College.

"Samuel": my uncle Rev. Dr. S. M. Hamill,

Philada., October 1, 1850.

My dear Son.

Agreeable to my promise above, you have the check of the Extension Board in your favour for \$150 Dollars. I did not receive it until this morning. At our meeting yesterday, I had the thing arranged, and this morning I got the check, which I hope will give you pleasure in receiving it. Through the Lord's goodness to us we are all of us here in our usual health and hope you are all the same. We have abundant cause to praise the Lord for his continued Mercies to us. Let us hear from you soon. I am now writing this in the office and shall be very brief. May the Lord bless you all is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Oct. 11 1850. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 232. "Extension Board": I have no idea what that means. There is our Presb. Bd. of Church Extension. But, it grants only to churches.

I had entered the Freshman Class of Lafayette in Oct. 1849, the day I was 14 years 3 age. There were only 5 in the class. My brother Joseph had been ~~at~~ a Tutor. There were only 13 in the entire college. My father had only friendly relations with the Trustees. But, he could not keep his large family on the small salary. He was a Student, a Teacher, a Preacher. He was not a Financier. The college needed a financier as President. So, he said good-bye, at the Sept. Commencement. In a stage-coach, we rode down the Delaware road, and crossed the river to Laurenceville, arriving at the High School on a cool Oct. evening. And, I became a pupil in the High School for one year, going to Princeton in Oct. 1851.

Part Fourth.

Jan'y 8<sup>th</sup>, 1852  
to  
Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> 1854

Philada. Jan'y 8, 1852.

My dear Son

We Received your last letter, and was made happy in hearing from you and that you were all well, and hope you are now all in your usual health. Through the Mercy of the Lord we are all in our usual health this morning. Your Son William is well, and has just gone to attend the Lectures. As you observe in your Letter, we live indeed in very exciting times, the arrival of \_\_\_\_\_ with the serious Fires which we had, made it indeed a very serious time in our city; the excited state of Europe with the Revolution in France makes it look as if a great Conflict is near at hand, between Civil and Religious Liberty and Despotism. However, God Reigns, and happy the People who take him there Refuge and Trust him at all times. We rejoiced to hear that Hamill and Matilda should join the church by their public confession of their Faith in the Lord Jesus. You have indeed great cause of thankfulness to the Lord for bringing so many of your Children into his Church. We Rejoice with you, and our hearts' desire and Prayer that they all may come out from the world and be enabled to walk as becomes the Gospel, and be usefull and glorify God in their day and Generation. Last Sabbath, your son Joseph Preached for Mr. Janeway in his church. We all of course went to hear him, and were all very much pleased. I hope the Lord is with your brother William's son Wm., and Pray he may become a True follower of the Lord Jesus. His Letters to his Father, Mother and Brothers are very good for a



boy of his age, and hope they may be Blessed to his Father.

I received the Letter of Isabella and the rest of your children.

Your mother and myself were verry much gratified in its reception,

and give our love to them, and tel them I hope in a short time to

write to them. As I have a constant pain in my head I am sorry

to say I feel a great indisposition to write. The Cold has affect

ed me verry much. I am not able to go out much, but the winter

will soon be gone. Spring with its reviving influences will soon

be here. Our hearts' desire and Prayer is the Blessing of the

Lord may rest upon your Seminary and your Family. Whenever you

can drop us a few lines we shall be always glad to hear from you,

and Remain your Father,

W. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Jan'y 8<sup>th</sup>, 1852, Phil<sup>a</sup>.

- page 234, "Son William": my brother William was attending  
Lectures in the Med. Dept. of Univ. of Pa.  
" " " Hamill and Matilda": my sister and I united  
with the Lawrenceville church.  
" " " William's son William": my cousin William B.  
Nassau was, at one time, very seriously inclined:  
but, he wandered, afterward.

Philada. March 3, 1852.

My dear Son

As I promised to write you and let you know how your mother is, I now inform you, I think she is getting better. She is still in bed. She has now a verry soar throat. I hope she will be able to get up in her room to-day. She is a great deal better then when your were here. Mary Ann, I think, is gradually improving, and hope through the Lord's goodness she may recover. Hannah went to Morristown yesterday. The rest of us are all in our usual health, and hope you are all well and that the Lord's Blessing may rest upon you and all of us is the Prayer of your Father

Wm. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes to Letter of March 3<sup>d</sup>, 1852. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 237. "Hannah": I suppose, my sister, who may have been visiting in the city; or, possibly, my mother.

Philada. June 11th, 1857.

My dear Son

Your last letter came to hand, and verry glad to hear from you. When Joseph came to the City, he Informed us that you had been quite Ill the effects of a Colc, and felt th nkfull to the Lord you were getting better. It's uncertain when we shall be able to leave home, as Mary Ann still is confined to her room. She had began to improve in her health, but I suppose the great change in the weather we had last week she took cold and was again confined to her bed, with considerable cough and great paine in her side. The Dr. put on a Blister on Tuesday. She is now better, and we hope the Lord in mercy will restore her again to health. Our hope is in him. Your mother and myself are in health, much the same as we have been for several months, the Dr. his Family are all in their usual health, Your Brother William and his Family are all in their usual health. The weather is here with us quite cool, a little fire is quite agreeable to me this morning. I hope your son William is still improving in his health. I cannot fix any time when we shall be able to leave home, but hope it will be before long. We shall come and se you as soon as circumstances will justify us in going away from home. I suppose the country must look verry cheering, and notwithstanding the backwardness of Spring, yet hay-making and harvest will not be much later than it usually is. The Lord our God is Gracious and Mercifull, and I hope at the end of the year we shall have abundently cause to Praise for crowning

- 2 -

the year with his Loving kindness and filling the Farmers' Garner with the Fruits of the Earth, and Blessing his Zion with the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit in converting many, comforting and building his People up in their Holy faith. Our love to you all, and may the Lord Bless you is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.



Notes on Letter of June 11, 1852, Phil<sup>a</sup>,

page 239. "son William": my brother had an abscess  
in his throat, from the effects of which, he never  
entirely recovered.

any consideration. In speaking with Joseph, after we got home, Dr. Handy told me that in conversation with Mr. St<sup>ee</sup>ver, he observed he hoped you would not keep him, as it would verry much inger your Seminary. I told this to Joseph, when he verry insignificantly looked me in the face, and raised up his hand, and snapped his fingers, saying he did not care that much for Mr. St<sup>ee</sup>ver's opinion. I can truly say I was surprized to se and hear it from Joseph. Now I do know you have no greater friends in Philada. than what Mr. and Mrs. Stuver are, and have done and are striving to do for you. I whould not for any consideration they should know it. It's not pleasant to me to write in this way. I do it to prevent a sserious injury to you. Your children may think it's a small concern, but public opinion goes the other way, keeping of dogs is much condemned here, perticularly those that will snap and bite. As to Mr. and Mrs. Davis they are well pleased with you and your Seminary.

Notes on Letter of July 13<sup>1</sup>, 1852. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 242. "Hamill" and "Joseph": my brother and I.

" " "Newark": Delaware.

" " "the dog". I had a young Newfoundland dog "Maida", at the Seminary. The girls teased it, and it bit Miss Davis slightly. But, the father was excited. And, the dog was sent away, though I and others of the family plead for the dog. ("I am sorry to see the sensitiveness manifested by your children on the subject.")

Philada., July 20, 1852.

My dear Son

I received your letter last week, and was glad to hear from you, as we always are. Miss Davis was here and mentioned that they have received a letter from you, which was very satisfactory to them, and I hope you will not have any more trouble about the dog. Joseph returned to the City on Saturday, and supplied our Pulpit in the morning, and as he had been troubled with the toothack, I advised him to preach only in the morning which he did. I was too unwell to go with him. The Dr. was congratulating me upon my getting well so soon from the attack of the Dysentary, as he said he had some very hard cases. On Saturday, I was attacked with a Violent Pain in the Bladder and Kidneys, and great difficulty in Passing any water. All night I was in pain, the Dr. was with me several times through the night, and did all he could, but could get very little discharge of water. I was in pain all Sabbath morning, all he did produced no good, but got worse and worse, and finally used his Instrument and brought the water away which gave me instant relief. As he says there is as yet no Inflammation only Irritation and I have no fever, he thinks and I hope I shall soon be freed from the infirmity again. My frame seems like a vessel springing a leak, as soon as you get one leak stopped another makes its appearance. I think I suffered more from this attack <sup>than</sup> any thing I ever had before. It's all right, I know that it is of the Lord's mercy to me that I am not as miserable as I am sinful, and

I hope through Grace of our Lord Jesus these things are among the all things that shall work for our good. William Handy went with his mother to Newark last Thursday, and returned home yesterday evening. As, when she went, I was not well enough to go with her, but had hoped that by to-day I should have been well to have gone to-day, but that is now out of the question. I cannot go from home, and the Dr. is verry bussy and cannot leave home, therefore I think Mary will not be contented to stay long. William sais he does not think his mother any better. I wish she was here. She must be verry lonely, and her weak state and anxiety about home I apprehend will destroy what good she might derive from the change of scenery and the pure air of the country. However, we strive to make the Lord our Refuge and cast all our care on him. I hope you have pertaken of the showers of Paine which the Lord so seasonably sent and yesterday and to-day's sun will enable the Farmers to get in their grain. By Joseph you will receive this, as he intends to return home to-day. Our love to you all and may the Lord Bless you is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of July 20' 1852. Phil?

page 245. "pain in the bladder and kidneys": the beginning of the disease of which my grandfather died in 1861.

"William Handy": my cousin: he became a doctor, and died in the Civil war.



Philada., Oct'r 6, 1852.

My dear Son,

Since you were here there has nothing new occurred. I am sorry to say Mary Ann appears to be growing weaker. She has been confined to her bed since Monday. Her throat has been soar and cough troublesome. Your mother and myself much the same as when you were here, the rest are all in their usual health. When you were here, you mentioned that if it was needed, the Two thousand dollars I borrowed you could pay it as you could get the money at Lawrenceville. Now if you can get it without any trouble it will be a great relief to me at this time. I hope you will not think hard of me for this Letter. I hope you are all well. And may the Lord Bless us all is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. YASSAU, Sen'r.

P. S. Just as I had sealed up my Letter, Mr. Hugh Hamill came in to the Store. He informed me had seen you all last evening, and that you were all well. he is on his way to Morristown. I was glad to meet him, he said, when he returned to the City, he would call up and see us. We shall be Pleased to see them. As you mentioned to me, without my saying anything to you about the 2 thousand dollars, that you could get the money at Lawrenceville, Now My dear son, If it will put you to the least trouble I do not want you to do it. If you were here I could state matters better. And now I have only to say, If its the least inconvenient and would put you to expense and trouble don't do it, leave it as it is.

Notes to Letter of Oct. 6, 1852. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 248. "two thousand": which grandfather had  
loaned for the purchase of the Seminary.  
"Mary Ann"; father's sister, Mrs. Handy.  
"Hugh Hamill"; uncle Rev. Dr. H. Hamill.

Philada. Nov'r 21th, 1852.

My dear Son

We have not heard from you since you were down here. We have been in much the same condition as we were when you was hear. Mary Ann seems to be no better. Some days she is able to be up, and then two or three days again confined to her bed. It's a great affliction to us in our old age to be placed in such circumstances, however, the Lord Reigneth. He knows best what is best for us, his mercies have been and are daily great to us. We may truly say, "Goodness and Mercy hath followed us all the days of our life. And our affliction we hope through his Mercy will be sanctified, and when our course is finished, we shall be prepared to Enter into that Rest which he has gone to prepare for all his People. Your Brother William and his family are in about there usual health. Charlotte, his wife, is and has been sick for the last two weeks. Edward has been here this morning going to school. He sais his Mother is no better. To-morrow will be observed in our State as a day of Public thanksgiving, we have abundant cause to be thankful to the Lord our God for his great Blessing on our State and the whole Union through this present year he has Crowned the Year with his Blessing he has give us abundance in the Fruits of the Earth. Now then, when we have such abundance of Evidence of his Mercys to us, how much more may we Pray and Look to the fulfillings of his Promise, that the Lord Jesus his Beloved Son shall se of the travail of his soul and be satisfied. He has declared that all Nations shall bow down and worship him, and the Kingdoms under the whole Heaven

shall be his and he shall Rule and Reign King of Nations, as he is King of Saints. O that the Holy Spirit might descend abundantly and this Latter day Glory of Zion speedily come. I hope your son William is getting better. I hope and Pray you are all well. When you have time, I shall be pleased to hear from you, and now may the Lord's Blessing rest upon you and yours and upon us all is the Prayer of your Father,

W. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1852. Phil?  
"Edvard"; my cousin Edward Nassau.

Philada. Jany. 24th, 1853.

Mt dear Son.

We are in about the same state of health as we were when Hamill left us. When he was here, I was afflicted with a heavy cold, cough verry bad. I have now nearly got clear of the cold, and my cough to about its usual course. Your mother is in about her usual health. as it respects Mary Ann, her prospects of getting better are no ways encouraging. She is verry thin of flesh, and verry weak. Our Hope is in Him, who is infinitely more compassionate than we can conceive of. I have Indeavored to bring my mind to rest in Him, who has the issues of life and death in his hands. Diseases are his servants, they go and come at his command. My Prayer is to be enabled to leave it with him and have our trust in him at all times, Believing he will do all things well. the rest of the Family are in their usual health. Hoping and Praying you are all well and the Lord's Blessing resting on you all, I remain,

Your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

On account of the constant pain I have in my head, I feel verry much indisposed to write. When I feel better I will write you again, you will therefore excuse this Brief letter.



Notes on Letter of Jan'y 24<sup>th</sup>, 1853, Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 253, "Hamill": myself.

Philada. March 1, 1853.

My dear Son:

Yesterday, on my return from the Board of Missions, at the store, I got your son Joseph's letter. But felt verry sorry to hear that you are sick, but glad to hear that the rest of your family are well. We sincerely hope and pray you may be restored to your usual health. There is no change in Mary Ann. She is verry weak and almost entirely confined to her bed. Her illness and her little children is a constant anxiety to us, and hearing from Joseph made us sad, to hear you was sick, but the Lord is gracious and Merciful. He is a refuge for us in every time of need, and we are permitted to cast all our care upon him for he careth for us. So that in all our fears we may look for his salvation. No doubt all our afflictions are entenced for our good but the flesh does not like them. I hope you will soon be up again. Tel Joseph I will think and look at the subject mentioned in his Letter, and write to him soon. Your mother and myself are in our usual health. We shall be verry anxious to hear from you. Let us hear soon. May the Lord's blessing rest upon you all is the Prayer of your Father,

W. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Philada. March 18, 1853.

My dear Son.

Your letter of the 10th inst. came to hand. We felt glad to hear from you and that you were getting better, with a Prospect of your having again your usual health, and that your family were well. We have indeed great cause to be thankful to the Lord for his many mercys to us all. Through the Lord's favor with care we hope your health will be better than it has been for some time past. We shall be verry glad to se you, and hope you will find it convenient safe for you to pay a visit to the City, as your vocation is so near at hand. I hope Joseph will do well and did what was right in accepting the offer from Wilkesbarre. We shall look for a visit from him before he goes to Wilkesbarre. We are in about the same condition that we were when your son Wm. left us. There does not appear any change in Mary Ann for the better. She is nearly altogether confined to her bed. Your mother, myself with the family are about as usual. Excuse this short letter as we hope to se you soon, when we can have a long talk together which will be verry gratifying to us. Hoping you are still improving and your family are well, and that the Lord's blessing may be upon you all is the prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1853. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 257. "offer from Wilkesbarre": as Principal of  
a School, (Female Seminary),

Philada., June 3rd, 1853.

My dear Son.

I took an early walk into Market St., and am now in Wm's store. It came to my mind to write you a short letter. I am sorry to tel you that Mary Ann appears to be growing weaker every day. Every day she looks more and more as if she would leave us. She is well aware of her situation, and I hope the Lord has sanctified her sickness and is preparing her to be amongst His Redeemed ones, to spend a long Eternity with him, where sickness, sorrow and sighing shall be seen and felt no more. It's an event I did not like to look at parting with her, but I can only say, the Will of the Lord be done. I know that as the Heavens are higher than the Earth, so are his ways beyond ours. I feel and know that I am as a Brand plucked from the Burning, and that it is because He is the unchangeable God, therefore we are not consumed. Yesterday morning, I met Mr. Hugh Hamill and Mr. How in the Store. He informed me your son Wm. was better, but that you complained of your hip, of which I was sorry to hear. Wm. and his family are all in tolerable Health. Your mother the rest of our Family are about in our Usual health; and now may the Lord's blessing be open you and your Family and on all of us is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of June 3<sup>d</sup> 1853. Phil<sup>a</sup>,  
"Wms": uncle William's tobacco store.



Philada., June

My dear Son

As I Promised you, I now set down to write a few lines to inform you how Mary Ann is. Yesterday, about noon, there was a verry great change in her. The Dr. thought she was going to leave us. However she revived again through the afternoon. Charlotte, your Brother William, and your Uncle Peter, staid here all night. She is verry happy, looking and waiting for the coming of the Lord. Last Evening she observed to me and said, "Well, my dear Father, I shall soon be home." She is longing to be with the Blessed Jesus. I think its probable she will not live over to-day. However, we will leave it with him. I look to be supported under the affliction. The Lord is gracious and of great compassion. As he has told us without him we can do nothing but his grace should be sufficient and his strength should be perfected in our weakness Praised be his Holy name for what is past and hope in his mercy for whats to come. Inclosed you have a letter which came to the store on Thursday. Your Brother William supposed it was for him. He found it was for your son William. Yesterday, I received a Letter from your son Jospeh. He is well, and sais he is getting along verry well. We are all as well as usual. And now may the Blessing of the be upon you, and on all of us is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of June - . 1853? Philo.

page 261. "youngson William". Confusion of letters  
arose from the names "William Nassau, Sr."  
(my grandfather), and "William Nassau Jr."  
(my uncle), and "William B. Nassau,"  
(my cousin) so, my brother William,  
inserted a meaningless W in his name;  
and he thence was known as Wm W. Nassau.

"Uncle Peter": Peter Parkinson

Philada., June 13th, 1853.

My dear Son.

This morning it is verry pleasant, the air is quite refreshing. Yesterday afternoon, we had a delightfull Pain, which I hope has extended far, as I suppose the country now wants rain for the growing crops. On that we may be enabled to Praise and Glorify the Lord for his many mercies to us and to the children of Men. Since William left us, Mary Ann has grown weaker. Yesterday about noon she was verry sick, her children with the Dr. ~~were~~ all with her. She was so weak they thought she could not live. I have not yet seen her this morning. I was in the room but she was asleep. The Dr. told me last night she could not live many days, as she was growing weaker every day. Your mother and myself feel verry sad about it. Mary has suffered long, and often with great Pain. I think she has been and is verry Patient under her Illness. I have read, talked and Prayed with her every day. She is calm, and her only hope is in the Lord Jesus. Yesterday morning I had a comfortable talk with her. It's hard to part with those we love, but so it is. This is not our home, here we have no continuance, as the Scriptures says, "we are Pilgrims and stranger- as all our Fathers were before us, " it's all right, there remaineth a Rest for the People of God. We all here are in about our usual health. I hope you are all well. let me hear from you soon. I need not ask you to pray for us, for I no you do. If we live til next wednesday, I will be 72 and your mother 71 years old. So you see we have got beyond "Three score

years and ten. Blessed be our God and Saviour, he has given us our lot amongst them that love and feared his Holy name, as Endless life is their reward. We hope to possess the same. May the Lord's Blessing rest upon you and your family and upon us all is the Prayer of your Father.

WILLIAM NASSAU, Sen'r.

Philada., July 2, 1853.

My dear Son,

Our Dear Mary Ann died yesterday morning, a little before 11 o'clock. Her end was calm, 3 or 4 minutes before she left us I said to her, "I hope the Saviour is with you." She replied, "Yes, if he was not it would be a dark hour." She has been wonderfully supported. The Lord kept her mind in Peace Amid the Paine and weakness of her body. When you come to the City you will hear all about her. I had Intended to have sent you a Telegraphic dispatch, but while I was waiting for your Brother William to come up, his Son William came up and told us. Mr. Hugh Hamill was at the Store and was going home in the 2-1/2 line, by him I suppose you heard of Mary Ann's death. The Dr. Made his arrangements to have the Funeral on Tuesday Morning, Invite at 8 and start at 9 o'clock. He has a lot at Laurel Hill Semitary. I hope the Lord is with us in this affliction. I feel verry weak but all together we are as well as could be expected. I hope you are all well. May the Lord support us all is the Prayer of your Father,

Wm. NESSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of July 2<sup>d</sup>, 1853. Phil<sup>r</sup>.

page 266 . My Aunt Handy was grandfather's  
only daughter, and his petted child.



Philada. July 15, 1853.

My dear Son.

I received your letter yesterday with obituary on the Life and Death of Mary Ann. It was all that I desired. Dr. Janeway was here, and as you suggested, I let him look at it. He said he would like to say something more and add to it. I gave the Letter to him, and he will write what more he thinks proper and hand it to the Presbyterian for Publication. He was very fond of Mary, and frequently visited her in her illness. He was going in the afternoon to his Father's at New Brunswick, to spend some time. We were glad to hear that you are all well with the exception of yourself. Mr. Hugh Hamill was at the store yesterday, and told William you was better. As Charlotte and her children went yesterday morning in the Steam-Boat down to Lewistown to spend a few days, William came up and slept here with us, and will do so until his wife returns home. Yesterday I rec'd a Letter from your son Joseph. He was well. I am going now to write a short letter to him. I took cold on Sunday, and have suffered very much with my cough day and night, but got relief yesterday and slept well last night. To-day I feel in my usual health. Your mother and the rest of the Family are in their usual health. I think the Dr. is improving in health, and sincerely pray the Lord will restore his health again. We would bless the Lord for his sustaining grace. If he had not supported us I think we should have been overwhelmed with much sorrow, so that we can say, "Poor helpless, sinful mortals,

In him possess grace, wisdom, strenght and rightecusness, we have found him a present help in our time of need. Since I commenced this I have been several times interrupted, and just now Josphine has come up, and I must conclude this. I hope the Lord's Blessing will be with you and opon us all is the Prayer of your Father.

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of July 15<sup>th</sup> 1853, Phila  
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"Lewistown": Delaware.

"The Dr.": Dr. Handy.

"Josephine": Mrs McLawrence,

Philada. Aug. 8th, 1853.

My dear Son

Your son Hamill came up from Delaware on Saturday, and intends to return to you this afternoon. By him you will receive these few lines. We are all in about the same state of health as when you were here on Saturday. The Dr. told me this morning he thought he was rather better, he says he does not cough as much as he did while he was away from home. Your Mother is tolerable. As to myself I was sick nearly all night. I feel verry much prostrated in body, and tired in my mind. Our situation here is in no way as we whould desire it to be. I feel I am a poor weak feeble creature both in Body and in Mind. I constantly strive to look at the Lord's dealings with me from my childhood. How infinitely great his mercies have been to me and our Children. In giving us such strong evidence, that, whilst he has taken them away from this world, he has taken them to be with him in the world of Glory, whilst passing away has been our loss it has been better for them. I try to him my refuge and trust him at all times, but hourly do I feel that without him I can do nothing. I try to rest my soul in him which when I am enabled to do, I feel better. God is our refuge. Jesus lives and Reigns in Heaven and in Earth, and no doubt has the same Love and Compassion that he had when he was on Earth, a man of Sorrows I don't want to complain nor do I complain, yet I feel more and more every day that earth by reason of our sins, is a tiresome place. The servant ought not to be tired of his day's work before the day is

gone and night cometh. My will soon pass away, the shades of its approach are hasting on. My concern is to glorify him until the end, and my ardent prayer is that I may not in any way dishonor him through the weakness and Infirmary of mind and body. David's prayer suits me. He Prayed to the Lord and said, "And now, O Lord, thou wilt not leave nor forsake me when I am old and gray headed." Your mother and myself feel much the need of Rest and Quietness. May the Lord direct and order all things for us. Pray for us and let me hear from you soon. Our love to you all, and may the Lord's Blessing rest upon you and upon us all is the Prayer of your Father.

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>. 1853. Phil<sup>a</sup>.

page 271, "Son Hamill": I had been visiting my  
cousins How in St Georges, Delaware.  
"The Dr.": Dr. Handy.



Philada., Dec'r 23, 1853.

My dear Son.

Since you left us there has nothing new occurred. By your son William you will receive these few lines. Your Mother and Myself are enabled to be up and about every day. Our only Refuge is in God, and O that we had but stronger faith to believe and rest in his Many Promises. Our Blessed Saviour says in me ye shall have Peace in the world you shall have tribulations, but be of good cheer I have overcome the world. When I look at what is before me, and no one else to do anything, my heart begins to fail, but then God is our Refuge and Jesus lives and is almighty, and he knows all our troubles and sinfulness and weakness of Mind & Body and his Promises are adapted to every condition who has supported us thus far through life, and has promised that he will never leave nor forsake. Mar. and Fanny have both been unwell. Mary has got better. Fanny has a slow fever. She has been sick now for near two weeks, but we hope she will soon get Better. William has been here frequently, and he will tell you about your Brother William and his family. Truly this world's like a Dream. I find it verry hard to realize that Mary Ann and the Dr. have passed away and exchanged Eternity for our present state. They have entered in there Eternal state but we are yet here, how long to remain is only known to him who knows the end from the beginning. Our God, Our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, I hope is with us and we hope he will support us and gave his only son to redeem us will support and keep us until our course is finished.

I hope you are all well. I have written this by candle light, as you know my cough makes me rise early. William was here last evening, and I am going to the City this <sup>morning</sup> and stop at William's house. A few days ago I got a letter from your son Joseph. He was in his usual health. May the Lord be with you and his blessing rest upon us all is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of Dec. 23<sup>d</sup> 1853. Phil<sup>a</sup>  
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page 274. "Mary & Fanny": 2 of the Handy cousins.

" " "The Dr.": Uncle Handy did not long  
survive his wife.

Philadelphia, Jan'y. 27th, 1854.

My dear Son

By your son, Hamill, you no doubt you heard how we all were when he left us. We are all in about the same Condition now, there has nothing new occurred since. I am now writing this on the store in Market Street. The winter is rapidly passing away, and we soon shall have Spring on us. So far the winter has been favorable for me, the extreme cold I cannot well bear, as it affects my nervous system in about the same way that the very warm weather does. Thus far we have Reason to be thankful to the Lord for his goodness to us. I think I have realised the truth and fulfillment of his Promise, "as thy days is so shall thy strength be." Blessed be his Holy name we have an Almighty and Compassioned Saviour to look to in all our afflictions. I hope the Bereavements we have experienced will be all for the Best. William and his family are in their usual health. As I go home I shall stop at his house. Son William is in his usual health. I hope you are all well and Pray the Lord's Blessing may be upon you and on us all. I shall be glad to see and hear from you. Excuse this short letter. I remain,

Your Father,

WM. YASSAU, Sen'r.

Philada., March 3, 1854.

My dear Son:

Your letter came to hand yesterday morning. Just before we received yours, Mr. Saml. Hamill and his wife stopt in a short time to see us. As I have not written to you for some time I have concluded to write to you. From the nervous state of my poor frame I feel a great Indisposition to write. However, I have commenced. Through the Lord's Goodness to us we are all in our usual health. I think I have in the midst of my cares and perplexitys found the Promise of the Lord fulfilled to me as thy day is so shall thy strength be. In the midst of our affliction the Lord has remembered how frail we are. In the fall, after the death of the Dr., I looked forward with great anxiety of the winter which was before us. I seemed to dread it, but it has passed away. The Mountains of difficultys have passed by without our experiencing what we dreaded. So it has always been with us, the Lord has always been better to us than our fears. I approve of your determining to Build and enlarge your house. I have no doubt it will be a great convenience and add to your means of supporting your family, and hope your life may be spared and and the Lord's Blessing rest upon you and your Seminary. I am anxiously looking forward for an Opening to change our situation. I feel a great anxiety for the children. They have no one but us to look too to give them a home, and I am determined, as far as they will let us, we will give them a home and take care of them. If I can, I will sell the Property we live in, and Buy a smaller house, which will put more means in my hands. Your

Session is coming to a close, and I shall be glad to see you in the City. Upon the whole, I feel considerably better. I am out almost every day, walk a good deal. Walking I always found was best for me. Your son William is well. I met him in the Store in Market Street yesterday morning. We are all in our usual health, and hope you are all well. Our hearts desire and Prayer is that the Lord's Blessing may rest upon you and your family and on us all. The sun is now shining. The snow is going very fast, it looks like Spring and I suppose you will hear the little blue bird to-day to remind us that spring time is come. I love to hear them. the spring time I hope is with your mother and myself, will soon pass through it, and the Summer of Eternal rest with Jesus is just at hand.

Your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.



Notes on Letter of March 3' 1854, Phil<sup>9</sup>

page 279, "for the children"; the Handy children,  
both their parents being dead.

Philada., July 7, 1854.

My dear Son:

As I have not heard from you since your son William left us, I have concluded to write to you. Through the Lord's goodness to us we are all in our usual health. The 4th was a verry hot day, and the most noisy and exciting 4th of July I think I have seen. We kept ourselves quietly at home. The Lager Beer house opposite us was crowded with Germans. They commenced waltzing about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and continued it until after 1 o'clock. Such amusement with the thermomiter at about 100. Wednesday night we had a verry destructive fire in Chestnut Street, as you know doubt have seen the account of it in the papers. For the last three or four weeks we have had some deaths from the <sup>h</sup>Colarga. This week I have heard verry little about it. And hope the Lord will preserve us from the Pestilence. When I look at the multitude and se the vaine trifling spirit which seems to actuate then. Pleasure, Fun and Fashion and the vanity of dress. Seeking to gratify the flesh in every way that can be devised, I feel as if I was not fit to live amongst such seans, looking at passing events, the course of which the High and low, Rich and Poor, are going and hearing him who is the beginning and the end of all things saying "Come out from this vains world, for if any love the world the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the Lust of the Flesh, the lust of the Eye, and the Pride of life is not of the Father but of the World. O how long Suffereing, Mercifull is God to us for his forbearance.

We have had 2 or 3 days verry warm weather, but I suppose its just weather as the Country needed, warm Sun Shining for Hay and now the wheat Harvest. From every part of our country the crops are considered as fine as we ever had. The wheat is unusually large. When we look through our Country in all its Length and Breadth and see the Abundance of every thing in it, and then look at Europe, the condition of the great Masses, and peticularly those portions which are now over run with Large Armies engaged every day in Battles, shurely we ought to be verry humble and thankfull for our Condition, And give thanks to the Lord for all his mercies. I suppose you are comfortably situated in your new departments to your house. I hope you are all well, and hope Isabella health is getting better. The Lord is verry good to us. We are as well as we could expect to be and better than we deserve. His goodness runs an Endless round All Glory to the Lord. Blessed be God we have a strong Tower a Refuge to hide in a Present help in every time of need. Jesus lives and Reigns ove all God Blessed for ever, the same yesterday, to-day and forever, and because he sais I live ye shall live we shall live forever. We are getting fast into midsummer and shall have the fall on us before we are aware of it. How rapid does the time pass The thout just occurs about 47 years ago the first time I ever heard the Hymn at our Friday Night Prayer meeting, which we used to hold at Mr. Carrdore's, in Front below South, Dr. Alexander gave out that Hymn, Eternity is just at hand and shall we waste our ebing Sand and careless view departing day and throw our Inch of time away.

-3-

Dear man and his wife, they Sleep in Jesus and have entered upon their Eternal Injoyment of God and the Holy Society of that world of Glory. God Bless you and your family and us all is the Prayer of your Father,

WM. NASSAU, Sen'r.

Notes on Letter of July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1854. Phil<sup>ls</sup>  
"Isabella": my sister.







